The North-Eastern Daily Gazette.

ESTABLISHED 1869. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1891. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY

Public Notices.

SOUTH BANK CHORAL SOCIETY. UNDER DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE. GRAND CONCERT OF HANDEL'S JUDAS MACCABÆUS, In the WESLEYAN CHAPEL, SOUTH BANK, On WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 4th, 1891, SOLOISTS: Soprano, MISS NAOMI HARDY. Of the London and Provincial Concerts; Contralto, MISS HANNAH JONES. Gold Medalist, R.A.M.; Tenor, MR MACGWYN HUMPHREYS, Gold Medalist, and Hon. Mmus Scholar, R.A.M.; Bass, MR LUCAS WILLIAMS, Crystal Palace and Royal Albert Hall Concerts. Tickets—Reserved seats (numbered), 4s; Front seats, 2s; Second seats, 1s. Doors open at 7.30; Concert to commence at 7.30 sharp. Programmes of Hildesbrough, &c., and Redcar, &c., after Concert. 4

JOINT OF HULL SOCIETY'S SAILORS' ORPHAN HOME. ANNUAL TEA AND MEETING, NEW TOWN HALL, MIDDLESBROUGH, On WEDNESDAY, March 18TH. Offers of Trays gratefully accepted. Candidates for the Next Election must make immediate application to GEO. GRAVES, Ironmonger, Corporation-road; or W. STARTON, Woodlands-road, Local Secs. 4

MIDDLESBROUGH AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB.—The Club year commences MONDAY, March 2nd. Ladies and gentlemen desirous of learning swimming under professional instruction, or who wish to join the Life Saving Class, are requested to give their names to Mrs. Miss Farrow, 5c, Hartington-road; or Gentlemen's section, Mr M. Jefferson, 7, Grange-road. 4

FOR particulars of Science and Art Examinations, Middlesbrough, April and May, apply William Taylor, Queen's-square. 5

SUMMER BEAR RELIEF FUND.—The Steamer Bear, of Middlesbrough, was run down in the Firth of Forth on Sunday, January 11th, and as there are Twelve Widows and about Thirty-eight Orphans of the crew left unprovided for, a large and influential Committee has been formed for the purpose of raising a Fund for the relief of such; and they are in the opinion of the Committee be necessary to relieve. To give the object to be a thoroughly deserving one the Committee earnestly hope that the public of Middlesbrough, Whitby, Filey, and Kirkwall will render assistance in carrying the movement to a successful issue. Subscriptions will be gratefully received by any of the Committee or by the undersigned. R. COLLINGWOOD (Mayor), Treasurer. ALFRED SOCKETT, Honorary Secretary. Municipal Buildings, Middlesbrough, January, 1891.

THEATRE ROYAL, MIDDLESBROUGH. Every Evening during the Week, New Entertainment in Three Acts, entitled VENUS. Monday, March 9th, Carl Rosa Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Tuesday, March 10th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Wednesday, March 11th, Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Thursday, March 12th, Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Friday, March 13th, Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Saturday, March 14th, Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Monday, March 16th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Tuesday, March 17th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. 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Saturday, January 16th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Monday, January 18th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Tuesday, January 19th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Wednesday, January 20th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Thursday, January 21st, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Friday, January 22nd, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Saturday, January 23rd, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Monday, January 25th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Tuesday, January 26th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Wednesday, January 27th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Thursday, January 28th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Friday, January 29th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Saturday, January 30th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Monday, February 1st, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Tuesday, February 2nd, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Wednesday, February 3rd, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Thursday, February 4th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Friday, February 5th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Saturday, February 6th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Monday, February 8th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Tuesday, February 9th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Wednesday, February 10th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Thursday, February 11th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Friday, February 12th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Saturday, February 13th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Monday, February 15th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Tuesday, February 16th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Wednesday, February 17th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Thursday, February 18th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Friday, February 19th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Saturday, February 20th, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Monday, February 22nd, Mr. Carl Rosa and Grand English Opera Company, in their Mid-Week Success, MARITANA. Tuesday, February 23rd, Mr.

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To Managers of large works, Tradesmen with work shops or warehouses at some distance, and others.

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BARLOW'S CELEBRATED POWDERS quickly remove these painful complaints. They contain nothing injurious, but are conducive to health and invigorating. Testimonials from well-known Philanthropists, Medical Men, Military Officers, Clergy, and other Ministers, who have given extensive distribution to this sterling remedy, post free.
The Powders are sent, post paid, on receipt of letter stamps, by SAMUEL BARLOW, Chemist, Darlington, and sold by most Chemists in packets at 2s 9d, 1s 6d, and 1s 1½d each.

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Buy your Furniture as J. VALE'S. Call and look at his immense Stock of Household Furniture of every description. New and Second-hand Bedsteads, and Flock Beds; Spring, Wool and Straw Mattresses; Brass and Iron Bedsteads; Sewing and Wringing Machines; Tricycles and Bicycles; Perambulators, Linoleums, Oilcloths, Carpets, Bedding, &c., &c. Cheapest and best house in the district.
Terms to suit all.

PEPPER'S QUININE AND IRON TONIC.
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PEPPER'S TONIC—For great bodily strength.
PEPPER'S TONIC—For great nerve strength.
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PEPPER'S TONIC—Overcomes weakness.
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PEPPER'S TONIC—Cures indigestion.
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PEPPER'S TONIC—Promotes appetite.
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PEPPER'S TONIC—Restores vitality.
PEPPER'S TONIC—Restores health, strength, and energy.
PEPPER'S QUININE AND IRON TONIC.
PEPPER'S QUININE AND IRON TONIC.
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Half-crown bottles; next size, 4s 6d. Sold everywhere.

SULPHOLINE SOAP,
TABLETS, 6d.
Boxes holding Three Tablets, 1s 6d.
SOLD EVERYWHERE.
TRANSCENDS ORDINARY TOILET SOAPS.
BY USING SULPHOLINE SOAP
THE SKIN SOON BECOMES
HEALTHY, SOFT, COMFORTABLE,
BEAUTIFUL, TRANSPARENT, SUPPLE.
DELIGHTFUL TO WASH WITH.
FRAGRANT AND CLEANSING.
BEST SOAP FOR DELICATE, SENSITIVE SKIN.
A SAFEGUARD AGAINST SKIN DISEASES.

SULPHOLINE SOAP.—6d.
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SULPHOLINE SOAP.—6d.
FOR ALL TOILET PURPOSES.
IN EVERY WAY THE BEST.
IS A PERFECTLY PREPARED SOAP.
FREE FROM ACRID INJURIOUS OILS.
HAS A CHARACTERISTIC AGREEABLE ODOUR.
POSSESSES HIGH CLEANSING QUALITIES.
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SULPHOLINE SOAP.—6d.
TRANSCENDS ORDINARY TOILET SOAPS.
BY ITS DEPURATIVE ACTION ENSURES
A TRANSPARENT SKIN,
A BEAUTIFUL SMOOTH SKIN,
A SOFT SUPPLE SKIN,
A HEALTHY, NATURAL SKIN.

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SULPHOLINE SOAP.—6d.
SULPHOLINE SOAP.—6d.
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FRAGRANT AND CLEANSING.
BEST SOAP FOR DELICATE, SENSITIVE SKIN.
A SAFEGUARD AGAINST SKIN DISEASES.
A PERFECTLY PURE SOAP.
THE MOST SALUBRIOUS SOAP.
A REALLY HARMLESS SOAP.
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"YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME,"
Such as our Forefathers did Drinke and Enjoie.
"YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME,"
Such as our Forefathers did Drinke and Enjoie.
"YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME,"
Such as our Forefathers did Drinke and Enjoie.
"YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME,"
Such as our Forefathers did Drinke and Enjoie.
4s per lb. Reduced to 3s 10d.

This high-class Tea CAN NOW BE OBTAINED IN MIDDLESBROUGH,
In ½lb. to 6lb. Canisters only.
AGENTS:
OSBORN & CO.,
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The Proprietors of "YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME" were the buyers of the celebrated GOLDEN PEKOE, at £4 7s per pound. They are ever on the alert to secure the finest Teas the world produces.

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MIXED PARCELS.
The following Manufacturers' Packet Tobacco supplied at THEIR LIST PRICES, CARRIAGE PAID, on orders of £2 and upwards, to any Railway Station within 30 miles of Middlesbrough, accompanied with remittance.

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Cope's, Hignett's, Ogden's, Taddy, Wills's, Phillips's, Player's, Murray's, Lambert and Butler's, Goodwin's, Bell's, &c.

CIGARETTES.
Goodwin's, Duke's, Wills's, Player's, Lambert and Butler's, Cope's, Hignett's, &c.

CIGARS.
Havanna, Mexican, and Manilla Cigars at Importers' prices.
British Cigars, from 4/6 to 20/- per 100 all carefully selected.

CUT TOBACCOS.
Irish Roll, Target, Shag, Cake, and Cut Cavendish, and every description of Cut Tobaccos at Lowest Prices.

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Tobacconists' Fancy Goods at current rates.

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Mention this paper.

S. DARBYSHIRE'S
PURE TEA.

FINE,	THE	FINE,
FRAGRANT,	CUP	FRAGRANT,
FAULTLESS,	OF	FAULTLESS,
1/10.	HEALTH.	1/10.

48, LINTHORPE-ROAD,
MIDDLESBROUGH.

GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS.
WM. R. TAYLOR,
DRUGGIST, &c.,
Corner of CLEVELAND-TERRACE AND WILSON-STREET, LINTHORPE-ROAD, MIDDLESBROUGH,
Begs to inform his customers that he has received his ANNUAL STOCK OF
KITCHEN GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS,
Of the Best Growing Qualities Suitable for the Soil of Middlesbrough and Cleveland District.
List of kinds free on application.

DISEASED BONES By the use of CURED
CLAYTON'S PATENT BALM, useful in every household for Scalds, Sores, Rheumatism, &c. All Chemists, is 1½d, or 1s 4½d post free from Clayton, Bonesetter, Felling, and 95, Albert-road, Middlesbrough.

A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT
SOPPET, 52, LINTHORPE-ROAD,
Has the Largest and Best STOCK of
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The most efficient staff of workmen in the North.
All work done on the premises. No Apprentices kept

DON'T YOU FEEL WELL?—I DON'T!
Get a Bottle of
STOREY'S PICK-ME-UP RESTORATIVE BITTERS.
It's the World's Best Tonic. It Pulls you up like Magic.
In bottles at 1s 1½d and 2s 9d.
Prepared only by
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JEWELLERY ONE SHILLING
CLUB. PER WEEK.
JOIN AT ANY TIME.
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DINNEFORD'S MAGNESIA.
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DINNEFORD'S MAGNESIA.
For acidity of the Stomach.
For Heartburn and Headache.
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DINNEFORD'S MAGNESIA.
Safest and most gentle aperient for delicate constitutions, Ladies, Children, and Infants.
SOLD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

DELAY IS DANGEROUS,
And never more so than with
COLDS, INFLUENZA, BRONCHITIS, CATARRH, ASTHMA, HEADACHES, &c.,
All these are QUICKLY and PLEASANTLY cured by
"HAKKA."
The most efficacious remedy known.
"HAKKA"
Possesses wonderful ANTISEPTIC and ANÆSTHETIC qualities, and is an Unrivalled Ointment for PILES, HEMORRHOIDS, &c.
"HAKKA"
Is procurable from Chemists and Druggists everywhere, 2s 3d a tube.
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Sold by all Chemists. CURES COUGHS

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HANOVER-SQUARE BREWERY,
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INDIGESTION.—The MEDICAL REFORM SOCIETY will send FREE to all applicants an excellent BOTANIC CURE for Indigestion, Biliousness Liver Complaints, and Piles. Address—The Secretary BOTANIC INSTITUTE, NOTTINGHAM.

SMITH'S PIANOS, 179, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER.
PIANOS (new) from 10s 6d monthly } TILL
ORGANS " 5s 6d " } PAID
HARMONIUMS " 5s " } FOR.
Second-hand instruments at lower rates.
Nothing supplied but what is of the highest quality.
Delivered free within 100 miles on receipt of first month's hire.
Write or send for price list (post free), or, what is better still, call on SMITH personally if possible.
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If you want to be permanently and speedily cured of this distressing complaint, discard prejudice, and write to THE SECRETARY, Burwood House, Burwood-placed Hyde Park, London. He will send you "Gratis" full instructions for cure, and advice on diet.

PEARS' SOAP PURE (FRAGRANT) REFRESHING FOR TOILET AND NURSERY.
EXHIBITION HONOURS.
25 International Awards of absolute Purity and absence of Artificial Colouring.
Fair white hands.
Bright clear complexion.
Soft healthful skin.
PEARS' SOAP is specially prepared for the delicate skin of ladies and children and others sensitive to the weather, winter and summer. Prevents Redness, Roughness, and Chapping.
PEARS' SOAP.—Large Scented Tablets 1s; smaller (unscented), 6d. Insist on having Pears', as vilely-injurious imitations are often substituted for extra gain.
Makers by Special Royal Appointment to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

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Stockton, March, 1891.
WATSON, SONS, DIXON, & CO.
Are now showing their fresh deliveries of Early Spring Novelties in Jackets, Cloaks, and Costume Cloths, &c., all exclusive in design and style, as well as in superior and medium qualities, an inspection of which they respectfully solicit.

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They also desire to draw especial attention to their Stock of New Carpets (in all makes), Linoleums, Curtains, Cretonnes, &c., being convinced they will maintain the reputation of the firm for such goods, and at prices to suit all purchasers.

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Telegrams—Watson Dixon. Telephone—No. 4,/61.
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PREVIOUS TO PULLING DOWN AND REBUILDING WAREHOUSES.
REDUCTIONS IN THE PRICES OF PROVISIONS.

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WHOLE SIDES 4D PER LB.
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Forfar Athletic Football Club.
"Given entire satisfaction to all who have used it."
STRENGTHENS THE MUSCLES.
From "Victoria," "The Strongest Lady in the World."
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ATKINSON & ATKINSON,
60, HIGH-STREET, REDCAR,
Announce that their
ANNUAL STOCK-TAKING CLEARANCE SALE
Will Close on SATURDAY NEXT, 7th March.
Special Sale of Remnants on Friday.
GREAT BARGAINS THE LAST FOUR DAYS. 6

ANOTHER GOLD MEDAL.
SYMINGTON'S
EDINBURGH
COFFEE
ESSENCES.
EDINBURGH, 1890.

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SHAVING. ALBRON MILK AND SULPHUR SOAP, which yields a firm, creamy, and refreshing lather, softening the beard, preventing the irritation so often caused to delicate skins in shaving, and rendering the passage of the razor rapid and easy. As a Toilet Soap it is unequalled. Delicately perfumed. Sold by all dealers in Perfumery in Shaving Cakes and Toilet Tablets.
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NEAVE'S FOOD.—For Growing Children and the Aged.
NEAVE'S FOOD.—"Carefully prepared and highly nutritious."—Lancet.
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NEAVE'S FOOD.—Hospital says of a child deprived of its mother's milk from birth—"The child has thrived exceedingly; it has made muscle but little fat, and is now one of the strongest and healthiest of children."
NEAVE'S FOOD.—Promotes the healthy action of the bowels.
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NEAVE'S FOOD. — Wholesale of the Manufacturers, J. R. Neave and Co., Fordingbridge, England.

North-Eastern Daily Gazette.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1891.

THE NEXT REFORM BILL.

PARLIAMENTARY or electoral reform has been the cry of the Liberal party in England for almost a century. At least three large measures have been carried, and after the enactment of each scheme the disposition of the reformers has been to "rest and be thankful." As a matter of fact the true Conservative is the earnest-minded reformer. The object of the chief promoters of the Acts of 1832, 1867, and 1884 was conservation, not destruction; improvement or development, and not revolution. Tinkering at the constitution was not liked for its own sake, yet no sooner were the successive Bills passed than their defects were discovered, and the need for further change was seen to be required if free play were to be given to the principle which lies at the root of all the three great measures—viz., the recognition of the authority of the people as the supreme political law. We cannot deny that a certain amount of impatience and disappointment was felt among legislative reformers when, a year or two after the supposed completion of the household suffrage scheme in 1884, a further measure or series of measures was declared necessary. Even, and indeed chiefly, among the ranks of advanced Liberals the feeling prevailed that an attempt should be made to reap the legislative fruits of the popular enfranchisement which had just been carried. But it was soon perceived that the motive power required for the passing of the necessary measures of social and political reform had not yet been supplied in adequate strength. Notwithstanding the assimilation of the county and borough franchise, the democratic sentiment had not been made predominant. Though the representation of the counties had become more Radical, there had been, as we lately pointed out in the *Gazette*, an actual retrogression in the boroughs. As we indicated last week, various explanations of this disappointing result can be given. But experience and enquiry have certainly proved that one is the state of the registration law. The Liberal leaders, but more especially Sir George Trevelyan and Mr Stansfeld, have found it only too easy to demonstrate that the electoral registration system, as it is at present framed, works in the interests of property and of Toryism, and against the interests of democracy and of Liberalism. The classes have double or multiple votes, to which, in equity and justice, they are not entitled; while the masses are deprived of votes which are in theory recognised as their birthright by the constitution of their country.

A new Reform Bill has therefore become a necessity. Its leading features were outlined in the speeches delivered by the Liberal leaders last night on Mr Stansfeld's resolution affirming the principle of "one man one vote." The present anti-Liberal House of Commons, of course, voted down the resolution. Happily, however, the rejection of a scheme of reform by the present Parliament is by no means conclusive as to its fate, and what is really more important than the adverse majority of 102 last night are the principles enunciated and the forecasts given by the Liberal leaders, with whom lie the guidance and control of the Parliamentary machine in the near future. And one thing made evident was that "one man, one vote," though the most important and perhaps the fundamental principle of the coming Bill, is very far from figuring as the end-all or the be-all of the measure which is now being formulated. Certainly the adoption of this single principle has in it the promise of far-reaching consequences. It would terminate University representation, which has proved to be purely reactionary-partisan in its product. But what is of far more consequence it would put an end to the idea that property, as such, is entitled to representation. One of the distinguishing features of the Act of 1884 which was claimed as a virtue was that it was entirely an enfranchising and not a disfranchising measure. But the new measure will, in the name of justice and sound policy, cut off many thousands of votes that are now given to and exercised by the propertied classes in excess of their rights as citizens of the Empire. It will be made impossible for property owners to vote in two, three, or perhaps a dozen different constituencies and swamp the resident voter. When this change is made it will perhaps be found that the parties of reform and of reaction, of freedom and of coercion, are not so equally divided in the English boroughs as they now appear to be, and that London and the large provincial towns will once again become the strongholds of the party in earnest about legislative reform.

Looked at, however, from another point of view, the coming Bill ought to prove an enfranchising even more than a disfranchising measure. It must provide for the simplification of registration. It will, we do not doubt, seek to make it as easy as it is now difficult for the working and professional man who has frequently to change his town domicile to continue in uninterrupted possession of electoral rights. A simplification of the registration law is urgently required—such a simplification as will make the vote of the householder as such as secure as the landlord's vote for property is just now. The adoption of such a measure would sweep into the ranks of the enfranchised, thousands of householders in every large constituency who ought to have votes but at present lose their qualifications through petty and irritating technicalities. The presence of these voters alone—apart from the righteous disfranchisement which will take place under the operation of the one man one vote principle—might completely alter the political complexion of the representation of the English boroughs, as it would almost certainly at the same time confirm and emphasise the growing Liberal predominance in the counties. We should look for a further security for a full vote by legit imate electors, and for an exhaustive and authoritative declaration of democratic sentiment, if the further principle of the unification of the franchise which we have lately advocated be introduced in the forthcoming measure. Our registration system cannot be made as simple and at the same time as effective as it ought to be until one and the same electoral roll be adopted for School Board, parochial, and municipal, as well as Parliamentary elections. Furthermore, the Parliamentary elections all over the country should take place on one and the same day. If these changes be adopted then we may look for fuller polls and more decisive expressions of the opinions of constituencies than are now obtainable. The fuller the poll and the more completely the democratic ideal is realised the more satisfied and assured the Liberal and reforming party ought to feel.

IRELAND, as well as Irish Home Rule, continues to hold the field. Following the example of the Institute of Journalists, the Associated Chambers of Commerce have selected Dublin as their next place of meeting.

THE full effect of the railway strike in Scotland was not felt in the accounts for the past half-year, and consequently is not being shown in the dividends now being recommended. Still, a decline has to be confessed. The Caledonian Directors propose 3¾ instead of 4 per cent. for the corresponding half of last year. The diminution of the North British dividend will probably be greater.

LORD MORPETH, the eldest son of the Earl of Carlisle, has agreed to make his first appearance shortly as a public man in the town which gives him his title. His lordship has accepted an invitation to address a public meeting on the 9th of March in connection with a lately-formed Temperance Society in the ancient borough. The Carlisle family are advanced reformers both as regards Church and State, and the friends of social progress observe with gratitude and hope that temperance is one of the most prominent planks of the family platform.

MR W. T. STEAD's eccentricity has led him far astray. It has taken him within measurable distance of Mr Chamberlain's position. The member for West Birmingham has declared that Home Rule is as dead as Queen Anne. Mr Stead does not exactly endorse that statement, but he almost accepts Mr Chamberlain's modified assertion that Home Rule has ceased to have practical interest. Mr Stead seems to think that the Liberal party will be compelled to relegate Home Rule to a place in the rear, that it may not be submitted for practical decision at the approaching election, and that Mr Gladstone may retire into private life. Mr Stead has not grasped the position at all, and he argues upon entirely false premises. He appears to think that the real point at issue is one as between the supremacy of Mr Parnell in Ireland and the continuance of Mr Gladstone as Liberal leader. Well, that is Mr Parnell's contention now, but it is that of no other person, and we would have thought Mr Stead would have been the last man to have been impressed and oppressed, even terrorised and panic-stricken, by the outrageous and presumptuous claim of a discredited man and a discarded leader. Mr Stead, who after the Divorce Court exposure was among the first to denounce the man's iniquity, and to shout for his dismissal, representing him as an impossible leader, now, unwittingly perhaps, but none the less really, plays Mr Parnell's game by magnifying his influence to the point of submitting that it is a controlling power not only in Ireland but in the Imperial Parliament.

Now, Mr Stead is all wrong. He is in error as regards Mr Parnell, and he altogether fails to understand the position of the Liberal party, as he entirely misrepresents Mr Gladstone's intentions. There is not the slightest ground for the assumption that Mr Parnell is going to win in Ireland; there is not an iota of evidence that the Liberal party is wavering in its determination to carry Home Rule; neither is there a man of grit within the Liberal ranks who trembles for the fate of the great remedial measure for Ireland, the confidence in which has grown every day since Mr Gladstone took his memorable departure. That there are faint-hearted feeble-kneed men who have lost heart by "recent events" is likely enough, and to such Mr Stead has given voice, but they do not count for much in any sense. Their influence was not sensible in Hartlepool or in Northampton. It has not manifested itself in any Liberal organisation. It has not made itself heard on any Liberal platform. On the contrary, the recent bye-elections, so far from giving evidence of silly prejudice or hysterical fear, have furnished the most solid practical proof that the English Liberals are sound to the core so far as Home Rule is concerned, and that the sympathy with and confidence in Mr Gladstone have been strengthened rather than weakened by the "recent events" of which the Unionists have made so much, apparently with Mr Stead's high approval.

BUT Mr Stead's contention practically is that Mr Parnell is stronger than the Liberal party, and that the making or unmaking of Home Rule rests in the dismissed leader's hands. "It is difficult to see," he writes, "how Mr Gladstone will be able to postpone much longer a formal but regretful notification to the Irish people that, while Mr Parnell remains in open rebellion against the majority of the Irish Parliamentary party, the consideration of the question of conceding Home Rule will of necessity be withdrawn from the practical decision of the electors at the approaching general election." There is not much of the principle of Home Rule in the words quoted. Moreover, it is not with Mr Parnell the Liberals of England have anything to do. If Mr Stead, like Lord Salisbury, chooses to back his money on Mr Parnell he is welcome. "The fool and his money are soon parted." The Liberals, however, prefer to pin their faith in and act in accordance with the decision of the electorate of Ireland and the pronouncement of their party in England, in Wales, and in Scotland. And what we know is that Mr Parnell was rejected in Kilkenny, because the electors prefer Home Rule to Mr Parnell, and that the Liberal party, not here and there, but here and there and everywhere, is pronouncing against the "impossible" man, and working with ever-increasing success for the one possible measure that will do Irishmen justice, and establish proper relations between England and Ireland. We know further that the vast majority of Irishmen in England and Scotland have sided with the majority of their countrymen at home, and only the other day Mr Carnegie, who was Home Rule long before Home Rule was accepted by the English Liberals as a party, speaking of that which he knows, stated that Mr Parnell is as "impossible" in America now as he is in England, and as events have already indicated, and as time will convince even the chicken-hearted Englishmen that he is "impossible" in Ireland.

HE takes a very poor idea of Irishmen who supposes that they will refuse the opportunity for working out their salvation in order to whitewash, even if they would, and Mr Stead knows they cannot if they would, the leader who has disgraced his name, has mocked virtue and defied shame, betrayed confidence the most sacred, misrepresented friends, reviled men he is unworthy to name, and is following a course as desperate as it is disloyal. Irishmen need not, and we are convinced will not, be deceived by Mr Parnell again; neither will they be bamboozled by Mr Stead. The English Liberals are not going to assign Ireland to "a back seat" or "lay Home Rule upon the shelf." They have no desire to do anything of the kind. What is more, they could not if they tried. Home Rule is with us, and will remain with us until we settle it; and when Mr Gladstone's party is strong enough, as it will be in next Parliament, to undertake the solution of the Irish problem, it will also be strong enough to deal, and that in a way the Tories will not like, with many other great and urgent questions. The Liberal party has certainly no fear of the labour question, or of the "momentous development" Mr Stead writes about, but those most desirous for the "momentous development" are just the Liberals who are most determined that justice will be done to Ireland, and that in a generous spirit, in spite of Mr Parnell and all his machinations.

LONDON NOTES.

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE AND EXTRACTS, &c.)
LONDON, Wednesday.

Mrs Gladstone has been suffering from a severe cold, the result of a foggy journey to Leeds, followed by two speeches to hear son's constituents. She is, however, all the better for her Sunday's rest at Tring Park. She and Mr Gladstone have now established themselves in Park-lane for the season. The great charm of their house is its twofold view over Hyde Park and the Green Park. Yesterday afternoon Mr Gladstone paid a visit to Cardinal Manning at "Archbishop's House," off the Vauxhall Bridge-road. The Cardinal is a year and a half older than Mr Gladstone, and less impervious to weather; so during the winter months he is obliged to receive his friends at home instead of paying calls. It is perhaps not generally known that Cardinal Manning is godfather to Mr W. H. Gladstone, who is named "Henry" after him.

I am glad to be able to report an improvement in Lady Trevelyan's condition. She is suffering from a painful inflammation of the eyes called technically *iritis*, but the doctors are satisfied with her progress.

Mr John Wilson has been appointed secretary to the Royal Commission to enquire into coal dust in mines, which holds its first meeting to-day. Mr Wilson is private secretary to Mr Chamberlain, chairman of the Commission.

Lord Randolph Churchill's travelling companion in his forthcoming visit to South Africa will be his brother-in-law, Mr Moreton Frewen. They will be accompanied by a regularly organised escort, including a doctor.

The Government duty paid by railways is again beginning to increase. In the past half-year the four chief English companies—the London and North-Western, Midland, North-Eastern, and Great Western—paid no less than £76,650, the Great Western paying much the largest part.

Free education is to be proposed this session. The extent of the concession may depend upon the size of the surplus. But Mr Goschen will go as far as he can go, and will perhaps not be very unhappy if the task of preparing his Budget is made all the lighter because of his inability to make any remissions. No other great financial stroke is expected in 1891, except the one-pound notes.

Whilst the lighting bill of the House of Commons is swollen this year by a sum of £1,300, being the cost of electricity in supplanting gas, the lamp account, which for years has stood at the enormous sum of £2,000 a year, is reduced by only £100. When the vote is reached in Committee of Supply, Mr Labouchere will call attention to this anomaly, and will move to reduce the vote for oil lamps by £1,000.

The following are the terms of the motion on the licensing question which will be moved by Mr W. E. Ellis, M.P., and probably seconded by a leading member of the front Opposition bench on the 10th inst.:—"That in the opinion of this House a large reduction in the number of houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors is desirable, and local authorities should be entrusted with powers of control over the issue of such licenses, and with respect to the days and hours during which the licensed houses should be open."

When Lord Wolseley was appointed to the command in Ireland it was doubted, even by some of the supporters of the Government, whether the choice was judicious. But quietly, and in spite of pessimistic predictions, Lord Wolseley has been establishing himself in the good graces of the Irish people. The Nationalist members of Parliament have found no cause of complaint against him, and the reports in other quarters from Dublin are entirely favourable. It is said, moreover, that he is extremely well satisfied with the manner in which he is received by the public.

The Parliamentary steeplechase, which is to take place near Daventry, on the 21st inst., will, as regards members of the House of Commons, be run under the same conditions as last year. Several Peers have intimated their desire to join in the event, for the purpose of a contest amongst themselves, but no definite arrangement has been made on this point. The entries close on the Tuesday before the race. It is already known that Mr Elliott Lees, Mr Cyril Flower, Mr Weston Jarvis, and Mr Penrose Fitzgerald will be among the competitors.

The Lincoln judgment is causing serious division amongst the members of the English Church Union. The Archbishop's disclaimer of the doctrinal significance of ritual is strongly resented; while those clergymen who a few months ago protested against the right of Dr. Benson to try the case and have now complied with the judgment are censured for their strange inconsistency. The dissident members are likely to make themselves heard at the next annual meeting, and it is rumoured than an attempt will be made to remove from the Council a London clergyman who has toned down his ritual so as to comply, at any rate in part, with the judgment.

Sir Benjamin Baker and Mr A. R. Binnie, the chief engineer to the London Council, have been actively engaged during the past year in investigating the main drainage system of London. I am informed they are of opinion that two new intercepting sewers must be provided at once a cost of about two and a-quarter millions sterling. The new sewers are to be of a sufficient size to cope with the sewage of a future population of seven millions, and also a reasonable amount of rainfall. As to the removal of the present outfalls to some point lower down the river or to the sea they do not think there is any serious urgency. At all events, they will wait until the precipitation works at Barking and Crossness are completed, and a fair trial of their effect upon the condition of the river has been made. There is no point in the estuary of the Thames or on the Essex coast where the volume of the future sewage could be discharged in a crude condition without risk of returning up the Thames. It is estimated that the cost of the works to convey the whole of the crude sewage to the sea would be £8,000,000, and the working expenses £80,000 per annum.

The Trade and Treaties Committee appointed last autumn by the Board of Trade, and which has the advantage of the chairmanship of Mr Mundella, has drawn up an interim report, which is of the greatest interest to the trade of the country. It is pretty generally known that the French Government are about to adopt a tariff even more protective than that which passed ten years ago. The duties on exports into France are already pretty high, but when the new tariff comes into force it will, in the opinion of the Board of Trade Committee, prohibit the export of certain articles of manufacture from this country to France, and will greatly restrict the export of many others. The trades specially affected will be the woollen, worsted, and other textile trades. Light woollens, which now pay 1f. 40c. per kilogramme, will hereafter pay a tax of 2f. 20c. In addition to the raising of rates, equal to about 24 per cent., the new tariff introduces more complicated classifications, which will cause disputes, with consequent delay and friction between the French Custom House officials and importers. The Committee go the length of denouncing the new Tariff Bill as an act of commercial hostility towards this country. England, though some trades will be hit hard, will probably survive. But the outlook for France is not hopeful. By a coincidence, perhaps not undesigned, the Foreign Office published last night a report on the trade of France, which shows a steady declines during the last ten years, the date at which the new protective tariff was introduced. In 1880 the imports and exports of France amounted to a round sum of £340,000,000 sterling. In 1888 this had fallen to £299,120,000. Last year, as far as the figures had been made up, the downward progress was still observed.

CURIOUS ERROR IN A SCULPTOR'S WILL.

In the Probate and Divorce Division yesterday, Mr Bayford, Q.C. (with whom was Mr Barnard), made a curious application to Mr Justice Jeune relative to the will of the late eminent sculptor, Sir Edward Boehm. Counsel said it was one of those mistakes which occasionally occur in drawing a will; and in the present case it had not been discovered until after the death of the testator. It was the intention of the deceased to leave to his two unmarried daughters, Georgiana and Florence, after the death of the widow, a life interest in £10,000 each. The conveyancer in drafting the will used the name of Georgiana in providing for her legacy right enough; but by accident, in disposing of the second £10,000, intended for the daughter Florence, he unfortunately used the name of Georgiana again in the precise place where the name of Florence ought to have appeared. His application was that the mistake might be remedied by altering the name "Georgiana," as regarded the disposition of the second £10,000, to "Florence," as it was the evident desire of the testator that both his unmarried daughters should each have the life interest in his estate to the extent of £10,000, and not one have £20,000 and the other nothing.—After a long discussion to show that the name "Georgiana" was not introduced in the latter part of the will by the authority of the testator, his lordship said he would look into the authorities, and consider the application before he gave his decision.

The dirtiest clothing can be washed in luke warm water with very little rubbing, and Clothes Trimming, and Dress Silks at half-price. Tweeds at 1s per yard towards. This is guaranteed, in proof write to see patterns.—ADVT.
Boiling by using "SUNLIGHT SOAP," to be within the reach of all.—ADVT.
See the cheap Ironmongery, Cutlery, Brushes, Fenders, &c., at Speer's Sale; 5s in the £ saved. 91, Newport-road, Middlesbrough, 94, High-street, Stockton.—ADVT.
If your Watch Stops take it to Collingwoods', when you may rely on having it made right. Repairs cheapy, quickly, and well done.—ADVT.
The Editor of the *Medical Annual*, after a careful examination of CADBURY'S COCOA, pronounces it to be both a food and a beverage of the highest quality.—ADVT.

A CARD.—An Important Discovery is announced in the *Paris Figaro* of a valuable remedy for the weak and weary constitutions, physical exhaustion, and kindred complaints. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico. The Rev. Joseph Holmes, Bloomsbury Mansions, Bloomsbury-square, London, will send the prescription, free of charge, on receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope. Mention this paper.—ADVT.
All who appreciate a really good cup of Cocoa should try Messrs Par and Son's Pure Concentrated Soluble Cocoa. Sir Chas Cameron, M.D., President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, says:—"I have never tasted Cocoa I like so well. There are few who would not like this preparation." Ask for Fry's Pure Concentrated Cocoa.—ADVT.
Darlington Feast Store Company's customers of business enables them to supply goods at 2½ per cent. below any other house in the North. Plushes, Velvets, Trimming, and Dress Silks at half-price. Tweeds at 1s per yard towards. This is guaranteed, in proof write to see patterns.—ADVT.
To make the white pieces whiter, Coloured Pieces brighter, and Flannels softer than they can be made by washing the old way, and to leave every article as clean and sweet and as pure as if never worn, use "SUNLIGHT SOAP."—ADVT.
HAVE YOU A BACKACHE? Use ALLCOCK'S PLASTER.—ADVT
KAY'S TIC PILLS, specific in Neuralgia, Facache, 9½d and 13½d; postage, 1d. At Chemists.—ADVT
KAY'S COMPOUND

MUTILATED BODY FOUND IN AN IRISH RIVER.

The body of a woman, supposed to have met her death by foul play, was yesterday found in the Liffey opposite Dock Quay.

AN ADVERTISING FRAUD.

At Tower-street Police Court yesterday Arthur Newton was committed for trial for obtaining money by fraudulently advertising and offering clothing in exchange for 5s. He had received 420 such letters.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.

Mrs Ann Telford died at Maryport yesterday, aged nineteen and eleven. She leaves a triba numerous children and great grandchildren. Her daughters are unmarried.

DEATH OF LADY RANDOLPH CHURCHILL'S FATHER.

The death is announced after a long and lingering illness of Mr Leonard W. Jerome, which took place yesterday evening at Lion Mansions, Brighton. Mr Jerome was in the seventy-fourth year of his age. Mrs Jerome and her three daughters, Lady Randolph Churchill, Mrs Leslie, and Mrs Moreton Frewen, were with Mr Jerome when he died.

THE O'SHEA-WOOD WILL CASE.

Mr Justice Jeune yesterday gave judgment on the appeal of Mrs Katherine O'Shea against an order to produce documents in her suit against Mr Evelyn Wood and Mr Charles Stewart Parnell, executors of the will of Anna Maria Wood, respecting the will of Mr Benjamin Wood of The Lodge, Eltham. His lordship decided that Mrs O'Shea could not be called upon to produce documents required and he made no order on the further motion for production or motion to strike out.

THE ASTON ELECTION.

Captain Grice Hutchinson, the Unionist candidate for Aston Manor, issued his address to the electors of Aston Manor on Monday. He calls himself a "Progressive Conservative," a warm supporter of Lord Salisbury's Government, and of Mr Balfour's Irish policy, and while anxious to redress all Irish grievances, he is for maintaining the Union at all hazards. He expresses sympathy with the movements for improving the well-being of the agricultural and artisan classes, and satisfaction at the appointment of the Royal Commission on Labour.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN LONDON.

A destructive fire broke out this morning in Essex-hall street, London, in a block of buildings occupied by Messrs Shawes, tailor, and Mr F. Race. It originated in the Mr. Poor, and rapidly spread upwards and downwards, the flames bursting through the roofing a very short space of time. A number of engines were called up, and played on the flames for an hour. The roof had then been burnt off, and all the lower floors almost destroyed.

A RESULT OF THE SILKSWORTH STRIKE.

255 FLEMORE MINERS SUMMONED.

At the Durham Police Court to-day Mr Oliver, jun., applied on behalf of the manager of the Colliery for summonses against 255 workmen for having, on account of the fourth election, absented themselves from work on the 20th, 21st, and 23rd ult. Five shillings a day—15s in all—was claimed from each for forfeiting the pit idle. After formal evidence had been given by Mr Johnson, the under manager, summonses were granted and made returnable for next Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

At the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in London yesterday, when there was a large attendance of delegates, Colonel Hill, M.P., presided, and the whole general prosperity of the country had been maintained exception most remarkable with respect to the shipping industry. He approved of the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the labour question. On the subject of bankruptcy he said there yet remained the question of the promotion of companies by the issue of direct statements and sufficient publicity could not be obtained.—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, speaking on the question of bankruptcy, said he believed in trying to a successful issue in Parliament a scheme by which creditors might obtain a more rapid and satisfactory distribution of assets.—After dividing the Association on a resolution from Nottingham in favour of the appointment of a Minister of Education, entrusted with the supervision of middle class schools. Resolutions were also passed in favour of improved commercial education, inaugurated by the London Chamber. The annual luncheon Colonel Hill was elected president, and thanked for his past services. It was also decided that the next meeting of the Association should take place in Liverpool. The meeting then proceeded to pass resolutions proposing certain amendments in the Companies Acts for the protection of creditors, as well as resolutions in favour of exemption from rating of all machinery other than the fixed motion.

EMBEZZLEMENT BY A CLOTHIER'S MANAGER AT MIDDLESBROUGH.

Thomas Coleman, at the Middlesbrough Police Court before Mr J. Coleman, Stipendiary Magistrate, Mark Hall was charged with stealing 2s on the 23rd inst. the property of his employer Benjamin Levy. The former pleaded guilty, and said he wished for the case to be disposed of there.—Mr Geo. Levy said as the prisoner had pleaded guilty he would only produce such evidence as would justify the Court dealing with the matter. The manner had been in prosecutor's employ for some years, truly in an inferior capacity, but afterwards as manager of a branch establishment at Grange road, Middlesbrough. For seven or eight months past prisoner had been systematically defrauding his employer's money. It was part of his duties to sell goods on credit, and provide pass books in which the amounts paid week by week should have been entered in a book provided for the purpose and kept by prisoner, and so far as prosecutor knew this was being done. As prisoner did not produce his usual account sheet on the night of the alleged offence elicited the fact that prisoner had absconded, and a warrant was taken out for his arrest. Prisoner had since written to his employer and given him every information, besides making himself up to the police. The statement of accounts and deficiencies was produced, the items being those of hosiery, &c.—Prisoner pleaded guilty to say, only that he hoped the Court would deal with him as possible.—His Worship said it was very painful to see a young man of his position so utterly abused as was prisoner's. Although the amount he had been charged with stealing was not a large one, it had extended over a lengthy period, and represented a heavy sum. He would have to go for six weeks.

ROBBING THE WIDOW AND FATHERLESS AT MIDDLESBROUGH.

At the Middlesbrough Police Court, before Mr J. Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr C. J. Cole-Hamilton), John Bainbridge, late foreman at the Britannia Works of Messrs Sadler and Company, Newport road, Middlesbrough, was charged on remand with fraudulently converting 11s 9d to his own use. In September last a labourer named Mark Shipley, who had been employed at the works, fell ill of typhoid fever, and died. A subscription was got up in the works, prisoner, who was then employed in the works as a foreman, taking the subscriptions from men on one shift, while Messrs Boles took the subscriptions from men on another shift. Boles took the subscriptions from 47 men. Prisoner, it was alleged, got 36 such Boles got 11s 9d, which he gave to Shipley in order that the latter might buy some of it over to the widow. Mrs Shipley had left Middlesbrough, however, but forwarded the place to her Cockington, for the purpose stating that money was being collected for her husband's funeral expenses. She wrote to prisoner, but received no reply and never received any money. Some time after, the foreman on the opposite side of the road, had his suspicions aroused concerning the matter, as when a subscription was being made in another case the workmen refused to contribute, as they had read that the money gathered for the purpose had never reached her. He went to see prisoner, and he showed him a letter from Mrs Shipley, in which she thanked him for sending her 31s 9d. Not being satisfied with this, however, he wrote to Mrs Shipley. She sent a reply from her stating that she had never received any money, or sent any letter acknowledging the receipt of 31s 9d, hence the present charge. Prisoner handed in several letters to character, and emphatically denied having made away with the money for himself. He denied ever having shown prosecutor any letter acknowledging the receipt of money.—He would like to say that he was not a man could not be found guilty of the crime of robbing a widow. It was always a fear of the working classes helping those in adversity, and it was scandalous that in prisoner's position should have done. The evidence conclusively proved his guilt, and his defence he considered to be a confession of his guilt. He would be sentenced to a term of imprisonment with hard labour.

THE YANKEE DOLLAR AND THE ENGLISH SHILLING.

Mr Chas. Tanner, the Canadian Liberal leader, in a recent speech of the campaign in Canada, said he did not like the Yankee dollar, but he said he was a traitor enough to the Yankee dollar to the English shilling. Mr Tanner's declaration was hypocrisy.

The Editor of the *Medical Annual* for 1890 informs us that it is largely used to add to the overplus of the Gods as at present quoted, but in contrast, Messrs Cadbury supply an article which is the highest quality; and that is the case in any packet of Cocoa or Chocolate bearing their name.—Advt.

Presentation Clocks, Bronzes, Silver-plate, Cutlery Ornaments, all of the best quality, at H. Samuel's, 84, High street, Stockton.—Advt

WEDDING RING.—When bought at the old-established firm, the purchaser receives a handsome present.—Advt.

Fletcher's New Ties, New Hats, &c., are now on sale and novelties arriving daily. Best value in town.

A WILL FORGER BROUGHT FROM AMERICA.

Detective Collingwood arrived in the Mersey to-day, by the steamer Majestic, having in custody William Stewart Crooke, accused of forging the will of the late Mr Harver, a Liverpool lawyer, which resulted in a sensational trial two years ago. Crooke was arrested at Denver, Oregon.

THE DIVORCE PETITION OF MR E. HARFORD AS A SCOTCH M.P.

Lord Wellwood, in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, to-day, delivered judgment in the action brought by Mr A. L. Brown, M.P. for the Border Burghs, against his wife and Wm. Shields, a traveller, for divorce. His Lordship after reviewing the evidence granted a decree of divorce with expenses against the co-respondent, and giving petitioner the custody of the children.

MESSRS BOLCKOW, VAUGHAN, AND CO.'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The directors of Messrs Bolckow, Vaughan, and Co. have just published their 26th annual report for last year, the statement of profit, dividend, and disposal of the balance of profit having been already published in the *Gazette*. The directors state that the comparatively high values of the company's productions with which the year opened were not maintained. In the earlier months prices of iron and steel fell away as rapidly as they had risen in the latter half of the preceding year, and although there was a slight recovery in the autumn yet the lower level was again almost reached in December. Under the circumstances they think that the result of the year's working will be considered satisfactory. The amount of profit available for distribution, including the dividends received from the Company's operations in Spain, the Cleveland Salt Company, the Dephosphorising Company, &c., is £317,907 4s 2d, plus amount brought forward from last year £5,628 8s 4d, equals £321,535 12s 6d, which they recommend should be disposed of as follows:—For payment of interest on debentures, £21,000; for payment of dividend on preference shares, £23,600; for payment of dividend on 81,488 fully paid shares at 6 per cent., or £1 4s per share, £98,785 12s: for payment of dividend on 93,045 shares, with £12 paid at 6 per cent., or 14s 4·10ths per share, £66,992 8s; to be written off capital account, £50,000; to be added to reserve fund, £50,000; balance to be carried forward, £11,977; total, £321,535 12s 6d. The plant and machinery of the Company are maintained at the highest point of efficiency, and no effort is spared to keep the mills in all respects abreast of the times. The retiring directors are Mr B. Whitworth and Mr C. F. H. Bolckow.

SLAVERY ON THE RAILWAY.

IRREGULARITY OF WORKING HOURS.

(To the Editor of the North-Eastern Daily Gazette.)

Sir,—There are at Middlesbrough a number of jobs which take fifteen hours to perform, even if the men do the level best to get done. That, however, is not the worst of it. While these men are fifteen hours, there are plenty of men and engines idle, so we are forced to work long hours daily. Then they lay us off a few consecutive days in a month. I do not believe that a single man would object to working a long day if it could not be avoided. But it can be avoided. To work a man fifteen hours or even more at a stretch is a discredit to the management of Middlesbrough, when there are men who have nothing to do. Only a week or an instance of Saturday's working. Out of a total of 69 engines, there were only 45 working. Still there were men working 14, 15, and even 17 hours. Now, these jobs are known to take these numbers of hours to complete. They are not kept on through any dearth of loading or traffic; for it is no more work for 30 hours. Then the same way of working till next day off, and so on, thus having all your work together and all your time off together. But I think I hear you say Hold! That's enough! And perhaps I may get a little space from you at some future time. I think I have given you sufficient reason "Why working men (railway men especially) do not go to church."—I remain, yours truly,

SEKIM.

PRESBYTERIAN CONFERENCE AT STOCKTON.

THE WORKING CLASSES PROBLEM AGAIN.

Yesterday morning the monthly meeting of the Presbytery of Darlington was held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian School-room, Stockton, the Rev. Mr Moody, of Harrogate, being the moderator, and the Rev. J. Bogue, M.A., Stockton, being session clerk.—The Rev. Mr Samuel read a report on "Service of Praise." Out of 36 congregations included in the Presbytery he had received returns from 17, in each of which there was a choir numbering 12 to 30 voices. Out of the 320 voices, 232 had had some musical training. In all cases except one the "Church Praise Book" was used; and nearly all the choirs had organs, or harmoniums, and American organs. A Choral Association had been suggested, but it was found that Stockton was the only place where it could be established, and even with the aid of Middlesbrough, Darlington, and the Hetchpools only 150 voices could be raised. He urged the attention of ministers respectively to this matter, because it was one of the reproaches against them that it had not been sufficiently attended to.—The report was adopted, and ordered to be sent to the Synod Committee.—The Rev. S. R. McPhail, M.A., Synod Missionary, had been welcomed to the Presbytery. The Rev. J. Bogue, on behalf of the local committee, reported the arrangements that had been made for conducting special services in Stockton and Middlesbrough.—A plan for interchange of pulpits on the last Sundays in May was approved.—The Rev. Mr Bidwell (West Hartlepool) reported on evangelisation, and the various efforts that were put forth to reach the masses of the people.—The Rev. J. Bogue, in moving the adoption of the report, expressed the opinion that the results had been disappointing, because the class who were sought after were not reached by the services.—The Rev. S. R. McPhail spoke to the same effect, and said the universal experience was that the masses could not be brought to the church, and when they were attracted to mission rooms they felt they were looked down upon, and therefore soon ceased to attend.—Ministers and elders were indifferent to the Gospel, and in many cases could not be induced to come to God's house for success they must look to the aid of the Holy Ghost. St. Paul went to Ephesus with no philanthropic fund, no entertainment, no other attraction; but he preached the simple Gospel he turned the chief cities of the earth.—On the motion of Mr Bogue, the report was adopted, and ordered to be sent to the North-Eastern Evangelisation Association.—The Rev. J. Peddie, M.A., gave a report on sabbath schools. He stated that the condition of the schools in the Presbytery had been much better than in the previous year. There was an increase in all departments of the schools except of the amount raised for missions—£94 11s 11½d—which was a falling off from last year. There were 46 schools, with 672 teachers and 5,190 scholars, this being an increase of 7 teachers and 524 scholars; 378 of the teachers were communicants, and during the year 51 scholars had joined the Church.—Some discussion took place as to the annual examinations, and it was suggested that a competitive system of school teaching should be held.—The report was received and adopted, and the conveners thanked for the same.—The Rev. J. Bogue introduced a discussion on the Newcastle overture "as to amusements of a questionable character in connection with the Christian Church," but it was decided that as the overture was not true as to this Presbytery no action should be taken in the matter.—The next Presbytery was fixed to be held at Darlington on April 7th.

The inhabitants of Stockton and district will save money by making an early inspection of E. Cowley's select assortment of Watches and Jewellery 131, High-street, Stockton.—Advt.

Many people are deceived into buying adulterated soaps because they do not look to see that the Registered Trade Mark "Sunlight Soap" is on the Wrapper and Tablet. "Sunlight Soap" is guaranteed pure.

A SANGUINARY DUEL.

THE VICTOR SHOT DEAD BY AN ONLOOKER.

A desperate impromptu duel took place at Gray's Station, a small village not far from Louisville, Kentucky, on Sunday, when a man named Abner Mitchell shot and killed John Woods, with whom the murderer had had a standing quarrel for some years. Another man, John Ingle, who was with Woods at the time he was shot, then drew a pistol and killed Mitchell.

UNSANITARY MIDDLESBROUGH.

THE MARSH-ROAD DISTRICT.

Effective steps are in hand for remedying the disgraceful condition of the small streets abutting upon Marsh-road. At the monthly meeting of the Middlesbrough Streets Committee yesterday after noon, Alderman Bulmer in the chair, the Borough Surveyor (Mr E. D. Latham) reported that he had prepared plans for the making up of the streets abutting upon Marsh-road, also that he had served notices upon the owners of property there to raise the floors of the houses up to the level of the street.

THE PROPOSED LABOUR COMMISSION.

In the House of Commons yesterday Mr Jesse Collings asked whether the reference to the Labour Commission would admit of enquiry into the condition of the agricultural labouring class.—Mr Conn desired to know whether the First Lord would arrange that one of the members of the Commission would be a person who had special knowledge of the subject of agriculture, and in whom the agricultural labourers had confidence.—Mr W. B. Smith said he was unable to give further information, more than he had already stated in general terms to the House. The composition of the Commission had not yet been determined. He would be able to make the statement upon it, however, in a few days.

A NOTARY DISAPPEARS WITH £250,000.

A notary of the town of Conesse, Seine-et-Oise, France, named Ducrocq, disappeared the other day. On his books being examined it was discovered that he had incurred liabilities amounting to £200,000. (£250,000), and that he realisable assets representing only about one-fourth of that amount. His uncovered debts thus amount to close upon a quarter of a million sterling. Before absconding Ducrocq sent intimation to the police that he was going to Paris with the intention of settling there. Acting upon this, and with effective force, went to the Paris address which Ducrocq had himself communicated to the police, but the people living there had never even heard of the ingeniously disingenuous notary.

A REQUEST FOR SIGNED EDITORIALS.

In the House of Commons yesterday Mr Atkinson asked whether the Government would give facilities to enable a Bill to be passed to cause the writers of all editorial articles to sign and publish their names.—Mr W. H. Smith said it was really impossible for the Government to ask the House to give precedence to the measures of private members. The suggestion of his hon. friend was opposed to the traditions of English journalism, and was in the nature of a restriction upon the complete freedom which was enjoyed by the Press in this country. (Cheers.) The Government would be unwilling to restrict the liberty which, except in very few cases, was far from being abused

THE SINGULAR ACTION ON A PROMISSORY NOTE.

COUNSEL WITHDRAW FROM THE CASE.

The action of Howe *v.* Burchardt, which has continued twelve days in the Queen's Bench, ended yesterday somewhat abruptly. The plaintiff, a Stockport farmer, sought to recover from the defendant, executor to Mr Benjamin Ashton, £1,375 upon a cheque said to have been given by the testator. Part of the plaintiff's case was that he had supplied Mr Ashton with money for a particular purpose, and that some of the money was obtained from relatives on a promissory note dated 1888. It was shown, however, that the stamp on the note was not issued until 1890. When the case was resumed yesterday Mr Chapman, who was with Mr Willis, Q.C., for the plaintiff, said he could not disguise from himself the seriousness of the allegations as to the promissory note, and should feel inclined to withdraw from the case, though he thought he ought first to consult his leader. At this point Mr Willis entered the Court, and decided not to address the jury, but to immediately withdraw from the case.—Mr Justice Wills then summed up, saying he was not surprised at the course counsel for the plaintiff had taken, and so far as the jury were concerned there had been no hasty jump to a conclusion.—A verdict was returned for the defendant.

THE SCOTCH BLAST-FURNACE-MEN'S STRIKE.

THE SETTLEMENT APPROACHING.

As was stated in yesterday's *North-Eastern Daily Gazette*, the end of this protracted labour struggle is very near. It is seen that the masters hold at present too great an advantage in the number of unemployed blast-furnacemen in the country or the men to hope to carry for the present those rights which they have struggled so gallantly and patiently, and against the greatest difficulties and discouragements, to enforce. On the books of the National Association of Blast-furnacemen alone —apart from the Scotch strikers—there are 500 men, while in Cumberland more men have been thrown idle by the closing and failure of ironworks than originally came out on strike in Scotland. Thus the Scotch ironmasters have the labour to command, and will be able to dictate terms to a considerable extent. However, the men have struck so strong a blow for justice as it is probable will not need to be struck again; and when the time is ripe, doubtless, they will make another stand, and in all probability their long self-denying struggle will bear them the fruits that they are not yet able to grasp. Deputations continue to wait upon the employers with a view to effect a settlement, seeking a return to work on the old terms at a reduction of 12½ per cent., in accordance with the fall in the price of iron. The masters, however, still adhere to their condition of a 20 per cent. reduction. Mr Baker, M.P., of the Blast-furnacemen's Association, goes to Scotland to-day to endeavour to arrange a final settlement of the dispute. The usual alimony has been forwarded for distribution, and it is hoped that it will be the last that will be needed.

THE SILKSWORTH STRIKE.

THE MINERS' DEPUTIES.

(To the Editor of the North-Eastern Daily Gazette.)

Sir,—Much has been said for and against this unhappy dispute, and the future position of the miners' deputies, not only at Silksworth, but throughout the county. The expressed opinion as conflicting as to whether the deputies should be servants of the Miners' Union or not. I think the first question we ought to consider is—can the deputies be members of the Miners' Union, and at the same time perform their responsible duties? I think they can. I do not for a moment believe that the miners in the county desire the deputies to shirk their duty, and neglect to enforce the rules of the mine to protect all life that is endangered, before the non-members of the Miners' Union. It is to the mutual benefit of all concerned, both owners and workmen, that the mine should be kept as safe as it possibly can be at whatever cost. But there are some correspondents who assert that deputies ought not to be joined with other classes of labour, because by being so joined they are not performing their respective duties and enforce the rules of the mine. Now, if these correspondents know of any colliery where deputies have been interfered with by the miners because they have dared to do their duty, let them speak out, and prove to the public that they have grounds for their assertions, or else be silent for ever, or let them forever hold their peace. A correspondent asks who are the coercionists now? I will also ask who interfered with the deputies first. I say the colliery managers. Or shall I say the "coalowners' Union? For, mark you, the same pressure has been brought to bear upon the deputies at other collieries. I will give a case. The deputies at a certain colliery decided to join our Union, and had almost completed their arrangements. The manager hears of their intention, summonses them to his office, produces an agreement, and by some means or other induces them to sign that agreement, and consequently they do not carry out their former intentions. Now at this colliery these deputies not members of ours have, or had a few weeks ago, at least one shilling per day more than those who were members of our Union; and one man asking for the same was refused the privileges as the deputies outside of our Union was told he could have them by leaving the Miners' Union. Is this not interfering with freedom of action? Is there any wonder that bitterness and strife exist with such undue the condition of the schools in the Presbytery had been much better than in the previous year. There was an increase in all departments of the schools except of the amount raised for missions—£94 11s 11½d—which was a falling off from last year. There were 46 schools, with 672 teachers and 5,190 scholars, this being an increase of 7 teachers and 524 scholars; 378 of the teachers were communicants, and during the year 51 scholars had joined the Church.—Some discussion took place as to the annual examinations, and it was suggested that a competitive system of school teaching should be held.—The report was received and adopted, and the conveners thanked for the same.—The Rev. J. Bogue introduced a discussion on the Newcastle overture "as to amusements of a questionable character in connection with the Christian Church," but it was decided that as the overture was not true as to this Presbytery no action should be taken in the matter.—The next Presbytery was fixed to be held at Darlington on April 7th.

We continue to receive a number of controversial letters on the subject of the strike and the evictions, but for the most part they are a thrashing out of old questions, and do not point to any new development.

Poole, Jeweller, Middlesbrough, has the largest staff of efficient workmen in the North.—Advt

Avoid the dealer who offers you any plaster in place of Allcock's, saying they are as good; he is a man worthy of trust. Honest men do not try to steal another's reputation.—Advt.

MIDDLESBROUGH TRADES' COUNCIL DINNER.

COUNCILLOR MARDON AND THE CORPORATION BILL.

Mr H. C. Derwent, of the Middlesbrough Typographical Society, presided at the anniversary dinner of this Association at the Oddfellows' Hall, Middlesbrough, last night, where there was a large gathering, the Vice-president, Mr Jas. Jackson (Carpenters and Joiners), occupying the vice-chair.

—Prior to opening the toast list the Chairman expressed his gratification at the largeness and representative character of the gathering, which was the best they had held.—The first toast was "The Town and Trade of Middlesbrough," proposed by Mr Jackson. He thought Middlesbrough was never in a more prosperous condition than now. They could not build houses sufficiently fast to keep pace with the increasing population, and he believed it was a fact that there was never a time when the trade and benefit societies of the town had a smaller percentage of members upon their books.—The toast was coupled with the name of Councillor John Mardon (hon. member of the Blacksmiths' Association) who, in responding, could not quite agree with the proposer that Middlesbrough was more prosperous now than it ever was. There appeared to be a period of depression now passing over the town, and that there was not so much prosperity in Middlesbrough as there was some years ago. The causes and the remedy for this he would leave to the Trades Council. The Council had to fight against exceptional difficulties. Little was bequeathed to the town in the shape of public works by any past generations. A new and rapidly developed town, it had to provide everything for itself out of the resources of the ratepayers. He thought they had some reason to be proud of what had been accomplished under those circumstances. He adversely criticised the action of the Trades Council in opposing the Bill which the County Council lately proposed to promote in Parliament, and which had now been deferred. He thought that had the Bill been properly understood that action would not have been taken. He suggested that the opposition meeting to the Bill was not a *bona-fide* meeting, but one which had been to some extent, whipped up in the interests of the Middlesbrough Owners, because the proposed Bill contained one provision which would cast greater responsibilities upon the owners of property in the matter of making up streets before building. He went on to explain various of the chief provisions of the Bill, particularly that with regard to the valuing of the Ironmasters' District. He also referred to the unsanitary districts of the town, and the action that was being taken to improve their condition. He trusted that the Trades Council and the County Council would together work for the benefit of the town.—Councillor Martin (Hetchpool), secretary of the newly-formed Trades Council, proposed "The Middlesbrough Trades Council," and in doing so he urged that politics should be allowed no footing in such an institution as this. He also deprecated too great a readiness to resort to strikes, and thought the great means by which progress was taking place had a tendency to throw discredit upon labour unions, many of which he feared were likely to be in straits for lack of funds. He argued that such societies should not be impatient to achieve great things, but be content to make gradual progress. He hoped to see a development of a system of profit sharing between employers and employed.—The Chairman and Mr Smith (the secretary) were coupled with the toast, and the former said that there was no gainsaying the fact that the position of the working classes was considerably better than it had been before, and that result had been due to the efforts of the working men themselves. He argued that this was but coming to the fringe of the question, and they had to buckle on their armour to gain greater recognition of the rights of labour, and more than they had ever yet obtained. Working men had themselves forced the extension of the franchise, and the struggles of the men had practically forced the appointment of the Labour Commission notified last week. That was a matter which needed to be watched to see that the rights of labour were fully represented upon and dealt with by the Commission. He hoped the Council would prepare and present evidence relating to the district before that Commission. He argued that strikes were not to the benefit of working men, and should not be lightly entered into. He also thought the matter in dispute at Silksworth was worth the great industrial disruption which it had brought about, and he did not not think trades unions were justified in using coercion to force men to join them. In the Silksworth case it appeared to him a case of coercion brought to bear upon the deputies on either side. He regretted to see that the blast-furnacemen of Scotland appeared to be losing their fight, for he thought they had a most just and righteous cause. He thought that their societies should be better federated, so that the blast-furnacemen should not have to stand alone in such a struggle—that before such a struggle was entered into the case should be laid before such a body as that Trades Council, and if the action taken was approved that the blast-furnacemen should have the support of all the trades unions connected with the Council. As to Councillor Mardon's remarks with reference to the proposed Parliamentary Bill, he contended that if the bill had so much in its favour as that gentleman had suggested, the ratepayers should have been more taken into the confidence of the Town Council. These matters had never been brought before them; and he argued that the present activity of the Council with regard to the unsanitary districts of the town was largely due to the way in which the question had been stirred up by members of this Council. He thought the voice of the working men in Middlesbrough should be listened to in such matters, as they, after all, had to bear the bulk of the cost. If working men did not now rise to their opportunities for improving their condition it was their own fault. He argued that to improve the condition of the working classes labour representation in Parliament to a material extent was necessary. In such a matter as the Labour Commission they had only masters to legislate upon the report, and how could fair and unbiased legislation be expected under such circumstances? Middlesbrough was above almost all others a favourable town for a labour representation in Parliament, and he argued that the question was well worthy of consideration.—Mr Smith also responded, giving figures to show the growth of the Trades Council. They had now twenty-two organisations affiliated with it, which was double what they had eighteen months ago. The Council was altogether in a most excellent and prosperous position. He urged that all trades unions in the town should join this Council.—Mr J. Whitehead (Engineers and Firemen) proposed "Kindred Organisations," to which Mr Storey (Engineers), of the Stockton Trades Council, and Mr McGregor (Labour Federation), of the Hartlepool Trades Council, responded. Mr Storey made some thoughtful observations in regard to technical education and the steps being taken in Middlesbrough and Stockton with regard to applying the grant for this purpose under the Technical Education Act. He argued that the proposal of the Middlesbrough Town Council to give a grant to the High School was not a satisfactory way of it was adopted in Stockton of providing a truly public and representative technical school.—The health of the visitors was proposed by Mr T. Carlton (Blast-furnacemen), Mr Beadle, of the Steelworkers' Association, responding. The other toasts were "The Press" and "The Host and Hostess."—The Chairman, at the conclusion, called attention to a circular issued on Monday by the Executive of the Council advocating the desirability of trades organisations discouraging as far as possible the working of overtime—a practice which tended to deprive a number of men of employment, and consequently weakened the power of labour. In part of trades working excessive hours to obtain redress.—Councillor Mardon asked the indulgence of the meeting to refer to the question of early closing, and drew attention to a letter which had appeared in the *North-Eastern Daily Gazette* on which the writer stated that two Councillors, who sometimes posed as working men champions, did not close their shops in Cannon-street at the time the other tradesmen did. The writer doubtless referred to himself and Mr Barron. He warmly defended their action in keeping open after seven o'clock owing to the special needs of the district.

THE HARTLEPOOLS ELECTION EXPENSES.

From the return just published it appears that the expenses of Mr C. Furness (L) in the late election at the Hartlepools amounted to £797 16s 9d, and those of Sir William Gray (U) to £373 7s 6d.

Fever Diminishing at South Stockton.—At the South Stockton Local Board meeting yesterday evening (Mr J. Steel presiding), Dr. Dodds, Medical Officer of Health, reported 35 deaths for January—6 under 1 year, under 5 and 14 above—giving a rate of 24·7 per 1,000; birth rate 33·17 per 1,000. Measles and its complications proved particularly fatal during the month. Twelve cases of enteric fever were notified. There was also a marked abatement in this disease; but, according to Dr Barry's information, they had to anticipate an increase of cases after a heavy rainfall.—The Plans and Works Committee reported having specially considered the Medical Officer's annual report, and given various orders thereupon. The inspector had been directed to make a record of all night-soil visitations.—In reference to the instruction given at the last meeting to the Surveyor to inspect the main sewer, in consequence of the prevalence of fever, Mr W. Henderson stated that all except one were found to be in very good condition, showing that there had been no lack of energy on the part of the Local Board in that matter.—On the question of inviting fresh contracts for night-soil removal, Mr John Parry moved that during the summer and autumn months—June to October—the subject be emptied once a day.—Mr Craig seconded, and in doing so stated that it was high time the conditions of contract were rigidly enforced.—Mr C. W. Anderson moved as an amendment, and Mr Geo. Whitwell seconded, that the period be monthly as before, believing monthly cleansing sufficient if it was strictly carried out.—Mr W. Anderson contended the amendment was carried by 7 to 3.—Mr Craig remarked that the amendment had been carried by the non-residents as against the residents.

When Starching your linen will be glossier and more lustrous, and you will find your iron will no stick; if you use a small piece of "Sunlight Soap" in the starch.—Advt.

How to Save Money.—Send your Umbrellas to R. A. Wilson, The Hatter, to be re-covered; prices from 2s 6d. Satisfaction guaranteed.—Advt.

For Cruets, Teapots, Knives, Forks, Spoons, and Electro Plate, &c., Poole's, Middlesbrough, is the best shop.—Advt.

Watch, Clock, and Jewellery Repairs.—All classes executed by proficient workmen. Satisfaction guaranteed at reasonable charges; no apprentices kept. E. Cowley, High-street, Stockton.—Advt

North Country News.

Stockton Half-holiday Treat.—Parkfield Wesleyan tea to-morrow, 4 p.m. Meeting 7.30, Rev. E. O Pearson describes Darkest Surrey Ald. Sanderson presides.—Advt.

Reduced rates to America by the magnificent steamers of the Warren Line; Boston, New York, or Philadelphia, £3 10s. Apply Thompson Dickinson, 71, Mandale-rd., South Stockton.—Advt.

Middlesbrough Liberal Association.—Public meeting of West Ward electors to-night (Wednesday), Cleveland Hall, Newport-road. Election of representatives to Liberal 400, &c.—Advt.

To-night, at 7.30, Special Mission Service in Newport Road Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. J. Fleming Silcock. Solos by Sidney Smith. Sankey's hymns used. A hearty welcome to all.—Advt.

Keeping Dogs Without a License at Middlesbrough.—At the Middlesbrough Police Court to-day twenty persons, several of whom are tradesmen in the town, were each fined 5s and costs for keeping dogs without a license.

Money Makes Money.—1,000 Boys' Suits, bought in for Cash, by Levy's, Bridge-street, at less than the price of making cost. Don't let your little ones go shabbily dressed. Come at once and see our Stock. A Levy, Bridge-street West, Middlesbrough.—Advt.

The Serious Assault in Middlesbrough.—The labourer, John Robinson, who was knocked down in the Market place on Saturday night, and rendered unconscious by the striking of the back of his head on the kerb, remains still unconscious; and great fears of the results are entertained.—Wm. Broderick remains in custody on remand on the charge of assault.

Stackyard Fires.—Mr Charles F. Gumby, Stockton-on-Tees, referring to the recent stackyard fire at Durham, says:—Why not stack the produce in each field in the field where it is grown? If the produce requires more than one, they should place them at least 50 yards apart. There is no more leading required at the finish, but there is a great deal less risk. You seldom or never see our farmer's principle of stackyards on the Continent.

A Rees-side Lad Rewarded for Bravery.—On August 14, 1890, John Logan, a youth aged 13 years, jumped into the River Tees at Seaton Point, Port Clarence, and saved the life of a child named Collins. For this act of bravery he has been granted the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society, which will be publicly presented to him at a forthcoming meeting in the school-room at Port Clarence by the Earl of Carlisle.

The Shipbuilders' Strike at Middlesbrough.—The men are still out on strike from Sir Raylton Dixon and Co.'s shipyards, but it is hoped that a settlement will be effected to-day, when a deputation representing the men on strike and the Boilermakers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Association will wait upon the employers to put their case before them. The matter in dispute has been agitated for some time. Only seven men are concerned directly, and these having offered to work on time instead of piece as formerly, their offer being refused, they have come out on dispute pay from the Association since the 9th ult. The other men have come out in sympathy with them entirely on their own responsibility, and without consulting the executive of the Association.

Saltburn Local Board.—At last night's meeting of the Saltburn Local Board, the Rev. E. Irwin presiding, it was reported that since the last meeting, the Streets Committee had inspected various places in the town where they considered drainage should be made, but after some discussion it was agreed that there was no necessity for any more crossings being laid down at present.—The Surveyor (Mr Hikeley) was directed to prepare an estimate of the cost of making a footpath from the Queen Hotel to Overdale, and it was also agreed that the Clerk should write the County Council asking what part of the cost they bore in the making of footpaths.—An analysis of the Saltburn water supply, made by Dr. A. P. Luff, of London, was read, in which it was stated that the water was free from colour, odour, taste, and suspended matter of great organic purity, and well fitted both for drinking and domestic purposes.

Middlesbrough Trades Council and Overtime.—The following address has been issued:—Fellow workmen,—We, the Executive of the above Council, do hereby appeal to you as trades unionists to seriously consider the question of overtime work, and endeavour, by all legitimate means, to obtain a cessation of the same as far as the circumstances of the respective trades will admit. Seeing the cry is now for an eight-hours' day, we think the respective trades should see that their members adhere to the nine hours, as several cases have been brought to our notice of men working speed, and in the below-workmen, who remain at work, being called upon to work overtime. We admit that there are instances where it is imperative that overtime should be worked, but we consider that such restrictions should be put upon it that men will be only called upon to work in cases of extreme urgency. We would also point out to you the necessity of taking action in this matter at once, as we cannot expect that trade will always remain as it is, and to prevent it becoming as bad as we experienced during the last depression we should limit the hours of work as much as possible.—H. C. Derwent, President; J. Smith, Secretary.

The Norton Stabbing Case.—Thomas Steward (21) was charged, on remand, at Stockton County Police Court this afternoon with stabbing his brother, Timothy Stewart, on Saturday night. The brothers lodge with an aunt at 10, Hallifield-street, Norton.—The injured man was now able to appear, and stated that they both returned home late on Saturday night the worse for drink, and there was a "ruction" because a certain door key could not be found. He and the prisoner fell to blows, they got out into the yard and fought, and in the course of the fight prisoner stabbed him. Just above the joint of the left hip with a pocket-knife. Dr. Blandford attended him, but it was not necessary to stitch the wound.—Sergeant Brown deposed that when he was called in and arrested the prisoner, the latter said "he was only sorry he had not given him twice as much."—Prisoner, who had a bad black eye, now seemed penitent, and was committed for a month, with another 14 days in default of paying 12s 2d costs, the Bench treating the matter as a common assault.

A Correction.—To the Editor of the *North-Eastern Daily Gazette*.—Sir,—In your report of the discussion on "Why Working Men do not go to Chapel" in the Brunswick Wesleyan Chapel, Stockton, I am reported to have said that no pastoral visitation had been made at my home. I have learnt to-night that the Rev. E. O. Pearson has made two pastoral visits which I did not know about when I made the assertion. I shall esteem it a favour if you will, in justice to Mr Pearson, report the correction in your next issue.—Yours truly, G. P. Stainsby, 59, Sydney-street, Stockton-on-Tees, March 2, 1891.—The Rev. E. O. Pearson, Wesleyan minister, writes with reference to the statement at the conference:—"One speaker (Mr Stainsby) is reported to have said that one reason why working men did not attend chapel was the neglect of pastoral visitation on the part of ministers, and in this connection he ventured the statement that he, although a member of the church, had been a householder for four years, and during that time had never had a pastoral visit. You can imagine my astonishment on reading that astounding statement when within six weeks prior to that statement being made I had visited his house on five different occasions. My mission on three occasions was on business connected with the church—one was partly on business and partly past

CHIPS.

Some of the theatres in Paris have a State subsidy, one theatre alone receiving £32,000.

"One of the greatest blots on our Christian city is," according to Canon Scott, of Woolwich, "the fact that in England we have 70,000 girls engaged in public-houses and drinking bars."

During 1890 two of the many buildings in London available for gatherings of fashionable men were made use of for no fewer than 1,414 company meetings.

Notwithstanding the enormous wool production in America, and in spite of the tariff discouragements, the United States actually import from Europe seven hundred millions of oranges a year.

According to the latest authorities the Missouri-Mississippi river is not only the longest in name, but the longest in extent of stream in the world—4,382 miles. The next longest is the Nile—4,000 miles; and the next in order the Amazon and Congo.

Louise Michel began life as a governess in the family of the Count de Soissons, and her first exploit was to smash the crucifixes belonging to her pupils, the Count's daughters, and to dance round the Count's dining table denouncing the parish curé, who was sitting at meat with the family.

Women are said to have incurred lead poisoning from merely biting off or passing through their mouths silk sewing thread. Silk thread so soaked in acetate of lead to increase its weight, and the danger is quite possible; and apart from the danger, the habit of biting off cotton or silk instead of using scissors is not the most improving thing for the teeth.

Among the curious things offered at a recent auction sale in Norwich, Connecticut, was a queer open-and-shut pulpit, which a century and a-half ago was used by the Rev. Amos Reed, a pioneer Baptist clergyman, in his ministrations throughout eastern Connecticut. It shuts up in compact shape, and the parson strapped it on his horse's back as he travelled from place to place on his wide circuit.

In one of the rooms of Dungeness Lighthouse there is an inscription setting forth that it was erected in the year 1792, on a spot distant from the sea by 100 yards, in substitution for an older lighthouse that at this date stood 540 yards further inland. When this older lighthouse was built it was on the margin of the sea. The existing structure, whose centenary will be celebrated next year but one, was, as the inscription sets forth, built a hundred yards from the water's edge. It is now fully 500 yards distant, and the sea is ever receding.

How many love-letters (asks *Tit-Bits*) are written every year in this country? The reply is that there are in this country in round numbers 200,000 marriages yearly, representing 400,000 persons. Assuming that there are an equal number of courtships going on in which the couples engage in the practice of corresponding by love-letters, and that on the average they write two letters each week, or, say, a hundred a year, then the number of love-letters would mount up to the respectable total of forty millions. Love-letters, as a rule, are not a valuable commodity in the market, but those of great men occasionally bring high prices after the writer's death; one from Keats was sold not long since for nearly £30.

The Belgians and the Dutch have taken great pains to perfect the breed of carrier-pigeons. Great matches are instituted, in which as many as 100 birds compete. Favourite racing courses for these matches are between Paris and Antwerp, a distance of 180 miles, and from London to Liège, a distance of 300 miles. In a great match in 1825 between Paris and Antwerp, 90 carriers were flown by the Belgian Society of Amateurs, and the winner accomplished the distance in four hours and a half, the average rate of flight being 40 miles an hour. A good carrier is expected to travel at a rate exceeding 50 miles an hour, and it is said that a strong bird can accomplish a flight of 600 miles in 12 hours.

Dr. Adametz, a Swiss scholar, has been taking a census of the inhabitants of a cheese. The microscopic examination of one "gramm" of a fresh Emmenthaler cheese, such as is sold in England under the name of Gruyère, contained no fewer than 80,000 so-called microbes. This prodigious encampment, after 70 days, proved to have increased to a tribe of 800,000. Another sort of cheese contained within a single "gramm" board and lodging for about 2,000,000 microbes, while in a "gramm" cut from the rind of the same cheese Dr. Adametz found about 5,000,000 of these inhabitants! A piece of cheese upon our table, of a few pounds' weight, may consequently contain more microbe inhabitants than there are human inhabitants in the whole world.

Death in his family means ruin to a Gold Coast peasant. If he is unfortunate enough to lose a wife, a child, his father, or most important of all, his uncle, "custom" requires him to fire off guns, to provide rum for all comers for a week after the death, and to repeat it at an interval of six weeks, and again after the lapse of a year. Sacrifices of goats and sheep must be made at the funeral and at other times as directed by the fetish-man, and perhaps a fetish made to lay the ghost of the deceased. To cover all this outlay, the peasant goes to the rich man of the place and borrows money at fifty, seventy-five, or one hundred per cent. Until this is repaid he is a slave, and must work two days in each week for the lender, receiving nothing for his labour. This goes on for years until the debtor is fortunate enough to get sufficient to pay principal and interest.

In the United Service Museum, Whitehall, are exhibited the "jaws of a shark," wide open, and enclosing a tin box. The history of this strange exhibit is as follows: A ship, on her way to the West Indies, "fell in with and chased a suspicious-looking craft which had all the appearance of a slaver. During the pursuit the latter threw something overboard. She was subsequently captured and taken into Port Royal to be tried as a slaver. In the absence of the ship's papers and other proofs, the slaver was not only in a fair way to escape condemnation, but her captain was anticipating the recovery of pecuniary damages against his captor for illegal detention. While the subject was under discussion a vessel came into port which had followed closely in the track of the chase above described. She had caught a shark, and in its stomach was found a tin box which contained the slaver's papers. Upon the strength of this evidence the slaver was condemned." The written account is attached to the box.

"I had an experience the other day," says a writer in an American paper, "which has interested me more than anything of a similar nature which has happened to me in all my business experience. A young lady who moves in the best society brought me three letters, and I photographed them for her, and at her request destroyed the negatives. The letters were the most tender and ardent love missives imaginable. They were addressed to the young lady herself, and were signed by a name which I am sure you would recognise instantly were I to mention it. I will confess that curiosity got the better of my judgment, and I finally asked: 'You'll pardon me, but this job is a little unusual, isn't it?' 'Is it?' she said, smiling. 'It strikes me so,' I replied. 'I don't see why you want photographs of those letters since you have the letters themselves.' 'Don't you? Well, I do. Suppose the letters were to be lost or burned, or destroyed in some other way?' 'Wouldn't the photographs be destroyed just as easily as the letters?' 'Perhaps not; especially if they were not kept in the same place with the letters. But I'm not afraid of losing them by fire or in any such a way as that. The fact is the ink is fading, and in a short time it will be illegible.' There is a girl for you who won't take any chances in the breach of promise business."

The aristocratic respondent in the action now pending in the Divorce Court is the bearer of an illustrious name. Earl Russell is the grandson of Lord John, and the son of the late Viscount Amberley by a marriage with Katherine, daughter of the late Lord Stanley of Alderley. He was born in 1865, succeeding his grandfather in the earldom in 1878. During his University training at Balliol College, Oxford, his career was marked by advanced, almost eccentric, views on matters political and theological. But his opinions have toned down with time. He cares little for politics, and though nominally a Liberal, he has done nothing publicly in support of his principles. His tastes are more of a social character. When he lived at Broom Hall, by the river at Teddington, his steam launches were familiar objects to boating men between Windsor and Richmond. Another pastime in which he takes interest is cycling. It is just twelve months since his marriage with the Countess. She is a daughter of Lina, Lady Scott, of Oatlands Park, Weybridge, Surrey.

QUIPS AND CRANKS.

A miser's first rule is addition. His heirs generally begin with division.

Many a man who is a good shot in this world hopes to miss fire in the next.

Can a waistcoat maker be said to have a vested interest in his business?

The surest way for "sweet girl graduates" to get into print is to wear calico dresses on commencement day.

"Mr Smithers, how can you sleep? The sun has been up these two hours." "Well, what if it has?" said Smithers; "he goes to bed at dark, while I'm up till after midnight."

"My heart is in my mouth. I am afraid to hear your answer." "You may well be, Mr Dollboy," retorted Ethel. "I could never marry a man whose heart was not in the right place."

"If I catch that white cur of yours hanging about my shop again I'll beat him into a *jelly*," said an eating-house keeper. "He is afflicted with *blanc mange* already," remarked the owner of the animal.

"Have you ever appeared in print before?" asked the editor of the shabby-looking man who tendered a poem on "Ethereal Mildness." "Er—only once." "H'm, poetry?" "N-no. In the police court proceedings."

Jenkins: "Well, well, I suppose that marriage is the end of all romance in a man's life." Jones: "That's just where you are wrong, my boy. It is only after marriage that a man's highest powers of romancing are developed."

Knowledge is Power.—"Uncle Rastus, are you afraid of ghosts?" "Yessir. I doan' like ghosses." "Well, I merely wanted to warn you that my chicken-house was haunted." "Haunted? No, sah, 'tain't. I done been dar 'fore dis, honey."

Silversmith (to rural old lady ordering a tea-service): "Would you like to have it with a repoussé decoration?" Old Lady: "No, I reckon not. If there's got to be any critters on it, I don't want cats. I'd rather have canary birds and butterflies."

Algernon: "Little Wiggins is paying a great deal of attention to Mrs Portly, the stout widow. Have you noticed it?" Augustus: "Yes, she weighs about 250 pounds and he about 100. The boys have a new name for Wiggins. They call him 'the widow's mite.'"

THE SHORTEST FORENSIC SPEECH KNOWN.

The presiding judge, knowing the habitual verbosity of C——, the counsel for the defence, said to him: "Mr C——, I would ask you to be brief for once." The barrister stood up, and addressing the jury, delivered himself as follows: "My opponent is wrong; I am right; you are the best judges." The jury acquitted the prisoner.

A MYSTERY EXPLAINED.

Creditor: "Can I collect that bill of mine?" Debtor: "I'm afraid not to-day." Creditor: "I hear you are going to have a new house put up." Debtor: "Yes." Creditor: "Seems very queer to me that a man who can't pay his honest debts can be putting up houses." Debtor: "Did you hear who was going to put it up for me?" Creditor: "No." Debtor: "Auctioneer."

FEMININE LOGIC.

Madam comes home from the theatre and finds Minna (the servant) sitting in the kitchen, reading a book by the light of two candles. She is very naturally annoyed at the girl's extravagance. "Why, Minna, actually reading novels with two candles burning!" "Not at all, ma'am," was the cool reply. "That's only one candle; I just cut it in two half an hour ago!"

A LIAR OUTDONE.

First liar (finishing a story): "Yes, sir; I killed that bear with nothin' but this little jackknife. You never had a tussle with a bear, did ye?" Second liar: "Oh, yes. I was out fishing one day when a big bear made a rush for me and knocked the pole out of my hand, leaving me without even that means of defence. Well, sir, I grabbed that bear, threw him down, and held him there until he froze to death."

EXTINGUISHING A HAT.

First Lady (behind a tall hat at the theatre): "Rather out of style, isn't it?" Second Lady (in a loud whisper): "Yes, they were wearing hats like that in Paris when I was there two years ago." "Yes I thought it was about that old. What flimsy material it is made of." "Horribly cheap. I saw some of that sort in the window of a second-hand store marked——" Lady in front (to companion): "It's so dreadfully warm here I shall have to take off my hat."

HEARD ON THE STREET.

First Citizen (who has evidently just been to see "The Merchant of Venice"): "Well, you see, the Jew, when he found out how it was going, he backed out." Second Citizen: "And lost the money?" First Citizen: "Oh, yes; you see it was this way, she was in love with the fellow the Jew got the cash for; and when the time came to pay, according to the agreement, it was either pay or cut. Well, the old man, he hadn't the money; and the Jew, he was bound to have the pound of flesh; and it looked rough for the old man. Well, she dressed herself in man's clothes, and was the judge, and says she, 'Jew, you're right; I find it so nominated in the bond. But, Jew, mark you, one pound of flesh, not one iota more or less; and if you shed one drop of blood your goods are forfeit to the State.' Well, the Jew, he seen how it was, and he left." Second Citizen: "Pretty deep, eh?" First Citizen: "Oh, there's some very elegant things in Shakespeare."

HOW A DOG ENLIVENED A TRAGEDY.

I recall how once in the market scene in the tragedy of "Virginius," with John McCullough in the title *rôle*, just after the rising of the curtain, a black and tan dog of a modern and recent appearance strolled on at an entrance, and regarded *Appius Claudius* with a tired indifference, which made the dog very popular with the audience. No one moved to the cur's expulsion, probably for fear of spoiling the scene, and, while the dog stood gazing at *Appius*, McCullough was heard mouthing his threats and objurgations on the side, as primary to his stormy entrance. At the first word the dog bent a listening ear, at the second answered with a sharp bark. The house was in ecstasy. Then came a succession of clear, bright barks, and every bark a challenge and a threat. The audience applauded vigorously, and Effie Ellsler, who was on as *Virginia*, smiled as she clung to her old nurse for safety from the miscreant on the judge's seat. At this juncture McCullough came tearing on to the stage, with eye aflame and sword upraised. The dog's courage did not last an instant, and with yelp and kiyi he fled before the awful apparition. The spectacle was too much, and *Virginius*, with his supporters, joined the audience in laughter long and loud. Order was at length restored, and McCullough proceeded to butcher Miss Ellsler with his usual spirit.

TAPPING A SHELL.

One day when I was at Glendale, Va., a couple of negro boys drove up with a mule and cart, and began to dump out at the blacksmith's shop a lot of stuff picked up on the battlefield of Malvern Hill. There were bullets, buckles, stirrups, belt plates, musket barrels, rusty swords and bayonets, and in the lot was a loaded shell, which had been fired from a heavy field-piece. The blacksmith was an old darkey, and the boys were his sons. When he saw the shell he said: "You git out wid dat yere foolishness! Didn't I dun tole you not to bring any mo' 'em yere?" One of the boys threw the shell aside, and then the old man went with me down the road to point out the public hitching-post. We were gone about half an hour, and were within 100 feet of the shop, when there was a loud explosion. A great hole was blown out of one side, and a part of the roof was bulged up, and the two boys came tumbling out through the smoke and ran against us. The old man grabbed one by the arm and whirled him around and demanded:—"Didn't I dun tole ye to let dat foolishness alone?" "She's 'sploded!" gasped the boy. "In co'se she 'sploded, an' now I'se gwine to 'splode you!" And he drew him to a shade tree, broke off a limb, and tanned his jacket till the boy yelled murder. Then we entered the shop, and found it almost a wreck. The boys had placed the shell on an anvil and struck it with the sledge, and the anvil had been blown ten feet away. Miraculous as it may seem, neither boy was injured in the slightest. "Sich frifflin' can't be abeared," growled the old man, as he hunted around for his scattered tools. "Didn't I dun tole 'em to let dat nonsense be? Didn't I know dat dem Yankees didn't go an' fill up deir shells wid co'mercial an' breeches-buttons? Of co'se she 'splode. It was her bizness to 'splode. Now you sot down till I find Moses an' wollop him, an' den I'll tell you what part of dat fight I 'sorb wid my own eyes."

FIVE MEN STABBED IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.

A man named Gavin, just returned from America, was travelling from Liverpool to Castlerea last night, and suddenly attacked his fellow-passengers in a train between Ballymoe and Castlerea stations with a pocket-knife, dangerously wounding five men in the head and neck, two, it is feared, fatally. After breaking both blades of his knife, Gavin pulled off one of his heavy boots and kept the passengers in terror until within a hundred yards of the station, when he jumped off and made for an adjoining wood, where he was eventually captured. He is believed to be insane.

A REVENGEFUL TAILORESS.

SHOOTING HER NEGLECTFUL LOVER.

A tragedy, which is thoroughly characteristic of the Italian quarter of New York, but with a decidedly novel feature, occurred on Monday. Nicolo Piero, a young Italian, was walking in Spring-street, near Broadway, when he was met by Pasqualine Robertelli, a pretty tailoress, about 20 years old. She had hidden behind some bales on the sidewalk when she saw him, and he approached the spot all unsuspicious of danger. When he came she sprang from her place of ambush, and drawing a seven-shot revolver from the folds of her dress, pointed it at him and began firing. She had fired four shots, and Piero had dropped to the ground, when someone in the crowd knocked the weapon out of the girl's hand. Two of the bullets struck Piero, one entering his chest near the heart. When taken to the police station the woman said that four months ago Piero had seduced her under promise of marriage. "He then gave me the revolver," she said, "and told me that if he did not marry me in eight days I was to shoot him whenever I saw him. Eight days passed, and there was no marriage. He then promised to marry me on March 2, and begged me to shoot him if he proved unfaithful. On Sunday I found that Piero had arranged to return to Italy. It was plain that he meant to get rid of me. I watched all night at his lodgings, but he did not go home, and at six o'clock this morning I went up to Spring-street and waited for him. I only did what he gave me leave to do. They can't harm me for it, can they? You know a woman has her rights." Pasqualine was remanded to await the result of her recreant lover's injuries. Piero was not able to give his version of the affair.

A REMARKABLE PRESENTIMENT OF DEATH.

A STAFF SURGEON AND THE SERPENT DISASTER.

An interesting case, in which an instance of presentiment of death was related, came on Monday before Judge Warren, President of the Dublin Probate Division. An application was made on behalf of Mr Edward Rae in reference to the goods of William Masters Rae, late of the Hermitage, Dungannon, County Waterford, staff surgeon in the Royal Navy on Her Majesty's ship Serpent, to admit a letter written by deceased to probate. The Serpent, it will be remembered, was lost on the night of the 10th of November, 1890, on the North Coast of Spain, and the deceased was drowned. On the 7th of November, the day before the Serpent sailed from Devonport, he wrote to his brother, Mr Edward Curry Rae, a letter, in which he explained his wishes as to the disposition of his property. Mr Edward Curry Rae had made an affidavit in support of the motion. The letter in question was written on board the ship, and was posted in Devonport on the 8th of November, the day on which the ship sailed. The applicant stated that this letter was in the handwriting of the deceased, and that his brother, William Masters Rae, was a married man, and had left surviving him his wife, Beatrice Rae, and two children. His assets amounted to £1,395 5s 4d, and his debts to £259 7s 7d. The letter was sealed "H.M.S. Serpent, Devonport, Nov. 7, 1890," and commenced, "My dear Eddie,—I am sending you a group we had taken here in September before leaving for Ireland." It went on—"We are off to-morrow to Las Palmas, Grand Canaries, St. Vincent, and Sierra Leone, to the fleet at Ascension. I'm off the 16th of December." The letter then refers to money matters, and says:—"I have been insured for £800 in the case of death by accident in the London and Glasgow Accident Company. B. has the policy. I expect combined or marvellous curative properties. These important facts may seem incredible, but it has done far more than is here claimed for it, proof of which is sent with each prescription. Thousands are blessing the day the Lion Compound for Bitters fell across their path, and it is given absolutely free of charge to all applicants, rich or poor, who send a stamp for the postage of the same. Hundreds of sick-beds of suffering humanity, which, under the old treatment at home has been a long-felt want by all well-regulated minds, and will be found exceedingly advantageous to sensible persons who desire to know what they are swallowing. Address, Mrs Gowan, E.B.F., Bradford, Yorks. When writing, name this paper.—ADVT.

CHLORO-LITESSED Cough Lozenges, post free 7d. Of Chemists.—ADVT.

COAGULINE.—Cement for Broken Articles, 6d and 1s; postage, 2d. Sold everywhere.—ADVT.

A HEART'S BITTERNESS.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "DORA THORNE."

CHAPTER I.

"THE MOTHER'S FATE PURSUES THE CHILD."

"Lady Burton—dear Lady Burton, only fancy what is the latest item of Society news!"

Lady Burton slowly dropped the old and yellow letter with the faded lines, and turned to greet the brilliant girl whose piquant, cheerful face looked out from under the plumed hat.

"My dear Grace, you always have some startling 'Notes on the Fashionable World.' What now?"

Grace Fanshaw dropped on an ottoman, and laid her glove on her friend's knee. She *had* news to startle Lady Burton. What joy!

"Violet Ainslie is to marry Lord Norman Leigh in a month."

"Violet Ainslie is to be married! and so soon! I cannot believe it, Grace."

"You may, Lady Burton—it is certainly so. I was with Lady Clare Montressor last evening, and she showed me a note that Violet had written, asking her to be her first bridesmaid."

"Two months ago Violet spent a week with me before I went to Italy, and she said that she did not wish nor expect to marry. She seemed to have an aversion to the idea of marriage."

"Well, poor dear, who wouldn't in her case?" cried Grace. "With two millions of pounds in her own right, what is a girl to look for? The instant she appears in public every eye is on her. How can she expect to be loved, followed, admired, courted, without reference to her immense fortune? Violet had come to have a mania about it."

"The perils of a great heiress are as terrible as those of a great beauty," said Lady Burton. "Violet had her millions impressed on her from the time that she could hear anything—they had been the chorus of her life—and Lord Leigh is surely the—a——"

"Happy man? Yes—at least Violet so asserts him in the note. You look doubtful, Lady Burton."

"I thought he was paying attention to Lady Clare Montressor herself, three years ago."

"That was before his father died—he has not since."

"But this is all very sudden. Lord Leigh was paying her no more attention than others were two months ago. Indeed, Violet shrank from attention."

"I know it. She seemed never able to receive it in pleased frankness as an honest tribute; there were always the millions, you know. And then, you know, Violet is as shy as a five-year-old child, and has been brought up in seclusion, like a nun—the Ainslies seemed always afraid someone would run off with the millions."

"The mother's fate pursues the child," sighed Lady Burton.

"Dear Lady Burton, what are you saying? See, here is this letter you were reading fallen to the floor."

"My dear Grace, it is a singular coincidence; this old letter was written to me by Violet's mother just before her marriage. I was her bridesmaid. I loved her well."

"She was a Lady Lucy Montressor, Lady Clare's aunt?"

"Yes, and as unfortunate in having too little money as her child is in having too much. There were five daughters and a son—ancient and poor—as some ancient earls had indulged in gambling and horse-racing. They all married rich—Lady Lucy, in marrying the banker, Frederick Ainslie, richest of all. The present Earl married the heiress of a great manufacturer——"

"And Lady Lucy died young?"

"She married at seventeen, and died at twenty-nine, when her only child was two years old."

"Do you know Violet seems to me like a little princess out of a fairy tale? Just think of the ten years, from five to fifteen, that she spent with her grandmother in the great grey, grim, ancient mansion in the Lincolnshire fens—a real 'Marina in the Moated Grange!' Fancy! She saw no one but the grandmother, the servants, the governess, the rector, and the lawyer—every one of them older than the other; and she never was allowed to read novels, except some dreadful old stuff out of date long ago—never a novel—nor to see any young person; and when the grandmother died, it was as-if Violet was let out of a great state prison, as historic princesses from the tower."

"It was so, indeed. And owing to her shyness and the domestic tastes of her aunt Mrs Ainslie, Violet, with only her very moderate knowledge of society, gained in part of one quiet season, is still to all intents a twelve-year-old child!"

"You quite frighten me putting it that way," said Grace, ready tears sweeping into her bright eyes. "Indeed the girl can hardly know her mind."

Lady Burton bent her head on her hand, a look of deep anxiety passing over her pale, high-bred face.

"Do not grieve, dear Lady Burton," said the spoiled beauty at her feet, patting her cheek; "let us have no dark prognostications at the marriage of so sweet a creature as Violet Ainslie."

"She is sweet, indeed. I think I never met a more fair, charming creature. Heaven only knows how I have hoped and prayed for her happiness."

"I know you love her, even better than any of the rest of us, dear Lady Burton, and you are only too good to all of us."

Lady Burton was the ideal and the idol of a large circle of young girls, and her influence over them was ennobling and delightful. She loved to surround herself with blooming youth and high spirits, to elevate their sentiments and cultivate their hearts. Her preference was a sort of high mark for the moral and mental dispositions of those she selected for her favourites. She smiled as Grace spoke.

"I think it impossible to be too good to any of you. It is, indeed, 'a rosebud garden of girls,' by which I am continually surrounded," and she bent to kiss the red, laughing lips.

"We shall be a rosebud garden, or garland of girls, I assure you, at Violet's wedding—fourteen of us. Only fancy!"

Lady Burton sighed deeply.

"Why, don't sigh as if it was an execution, dearest," cried the lively maiden. "Violet is past sighing, and—oh, let me tell you what my aunt said this very morning—'She is marrying one of the oldest titles in England.' Just as if it were the *title*, not the *man*."

"Heaven send it is the man, with a good, true, loyal, well-founded love between them," said Lady Burton, who had lived to see many very miserable matches, many shamefully broken ones, and many supremely happy ones. She herself could speak from experience on both sides. Her first marriage had been a misery, nobly endured, so long as God willed; her second a union of two brave, loving hearts.

"You must give her all manner of good advice," said Grace, tapping Lady Burton's hand, as she saw her fall into reverie.

"I must, indeed. I returned only yesterday from France."

"And your poor cousin died while you were with her. Pardon me for not having spoken of it before."

"It was an end long expected. I was looking in my cabinet for an old letter from her, when I came upon these from my early friend, Lady Lucy Montressor."

"At least, Lady Burton, Violet need not fear that Lord Leigh is marrying her for her millions. He can afford to marry for love; he is rich in money, as in antiquity of title; and he is young and good looking, and a very good fellow. No one ever heard a word against him. He is grave, shy, not very fond of society, a little gloomy, perhaps. I never saw anyone take a thing to heart as he did his father's death, and you know the old saying, 'A good son makes a good husband.'"

"My dear Lucy," cried Lady Burton, "let me kiss you. You are the most comforting creature. You always speak good of people. It is a lovely quality in you."

"But in this case, Lady Burton, there is only good to be said. I hear your horses before the door. My aunt's coupé is there for me. My love to Violet."

A few minutes later Lady Burton had entered her own coupé, and ordered the coachman to drive to 9, Portland-place.

It was the residence of the banker, Henry Ainslie.

"Miss Ainslie is never engaged to you, my lady," said the footman, "though she is refused to all others this morning."

Too impatient to sit down, Lady Burton walked about the drawing-room for a minute or two. The owner had no titles, and the quietness of the house was but of homely taste; but, by grace of unlimited money, it was one of the finest drawing-rooms in London, as becomes the dwelling of a prince of finance. In a moment Violet's maid entered.

"Would you come up to Miss Ainslie's boudoir, my lady? She is anxious to see you, but cannot come down."

CHAPTER II.

"DO YOU TRUST LOVE?"

Lady Burton went up the well-known stair, and the maid threw open the door of the heiress's boudoir. The most fashionable mantua-maker in London and her three chief assistants were in possession. Leaning back in a great stuffed chair, her eye-glasses in hand, her face illuminated with pride and interest, was the portly, kindly figure of Mrs Ainslie, the banker's wife.

In the centre of the room, and the cynosure of all eyes, was a charming, dainty girl-figure, with white, dimpled arms, statuesquely folded, clad from throat to feet in the white of a cambric dressing jacket and her white petticoat, with its multitudinous lace frills, while before her knelt Madame Lambini, the *modiste*, holding against her "subject" ample folds of silk and lace, a mass that looked like the curled and crested foam-bright waves of the sea.

In half-undress, standing to be draped and fitted, bare-necked, bare-armed, pensive, silent, lost as in some curious maze, this was she, Violet Ainslie, the great heiress, the orphan holder of burdensome millions, doomed to be her curse.

The opening of the door drew the girl from her fancies with a start. She held out her hand.

"I am a prisoner *des modes*," she said.

Mrs Ainslie came forward, her usual heartiness intensified by her honest regard and an honest awe for Lady Burton.

"So good of you, Lady Burton, to come to us. Violet was to go to you as soon as Madame Lambini released her; but, you see, now we are so hurried in our preparations——"

Meanwhile two small, tremulous hands had seized upon Lady Burton and held her fast, with a nervous, almost despairing clasp. Her right hand thus imprisoned, Lady Burton smiled, and was obliged to offer her left hand to Mrs Ainslie, who accepted it with ardour.

"I see," said Lady Burton, looking about, "that it is true."

"Oh, yes, quite true," said Mrs Ainslie, with open delight.

Lady Burton turned a clear, steadfast, searching eye on Violet's flushing face.

"Let me go instantly, madam," cried Violet. "I have chosen enough for you to begin on. I am tired. Kate, a dressing wrap."

Kate threw a down-trimmed robe over her young lady's shoulders; and Violet, still holding Lady Burton's hand, drew her into her dressing-room, and the instant the door was shut threw herself with a burst of tears upon the bosom of her friend.

Lady Burton, folding the girl in her arms, allowed this emotion to have its way. Presently Violet recovered herself, pushed back the moist ripples of brown hair from her forehead, and a smile flashed through her tears like the sun through summer rain.

"Forgive me! You always look so motherly to me that it is in your presence I give way."

"Let me be motherly," said Lady Burton, leading her to a divan and holding her clasped in her arm. "I loved your mother. To-day I come to you in her name. May I speak, and will you answer freely?"

"Indeed, yes."

"Are these tears sorrow or excitement?"

"I think—excitement," said Violet, with a fascinating little smile.

"My child, do you truly love the man you are to marry?"

Violet locked and unlocked her pink fingers as she said, with a pathetic droop of her mouth, and her straight look:

"Lady Burton, I do not know."

Such an answer, before an announced engagement, would have aroused Lady Burton to vigorous protest. Now another course was needful.

"Violet, do you love this man beyond all others? Is he more pleasing to you than other men?"

"Lady Burton, you know I have seen almost nothing of men. I saw no men until I came here three years ago—few since, until this season; and then, oh, I have been taught to suspect them all. I have refused ten who hardly knew me! It was too dreadful!"

"Violet, are you sure you so much prefer this man to others that he will always be your preference?"

"Lady Burton," said Violet, erecting her pretty head, "I should never fail to do my duty."

"Bear with me while I search your heart. We human beings are so weak, beyond our dream, that sometimes we are betrayed by ourselves before we are aware. Is it a joy, a content, to think of spending your life with Lord Leigh? The years of your life may be many and long. While youth is glowing, while maturity ripens, while age comes on, will you be content to spend your life in the shadow of this man's love, and within the circle of his arm?"

"I suppose so," said Violet, hesitatingly, and with a troubled look; "I have as yet thought of it only in this way. I shall be safe only in my own home, and no longer the golden apple of conflict between the Ainslies and Montressors. My poor, kind aunt will not longer be victimised and tortured by the Montressor aunts on my behalf; my uncle will no longer assure me that he is getting grey in caring for my dreadful millions. I will no longer be pursued for my millions, and having old men and young, good and bad—men I hardly know by sight—flinging themselves at my feet, and protesting they desire only my love; and to hear Uncle Henry say solemnly, 'Another, Violet!' This is the sixth, eighth, sixth, as the case may be—just as if I were the boldest coquette; and aunt reply, with a groan, 'Poor dear, what can you expect?'"

"Yes, my child, I understand. This is a little evil picture that comes linked with your great fortune. But do you love your chosen husband enough to yield to his wishes—to prefer his wishes to your own, to seek first his comfort; to make his comfort the study of your life, as heretofore your own comfort has been?"

"Must I do all that?" said Violet, innocently. "These expectations and plans seem natural to real love."

"Perhaps they will come in time?" suggested Violet.

"Love can and does grow if cherished. But let me warn you dear, that no woman, not even an unloved wife, is so unhappy as an unloving wife. Love and self-sacrifice bring their own conditions. I see no comfort for the wife who does not love."

"Perhaps I do love Lord Leigh, he is very—nice," said Violet, meditatively; but the tone made Lady Burton's heart sink with fear; while the girl added, quickly, "And really he is, I think, very fond of me. He has asked me three times——"

"Fond of you!" cried Lady Burton: "could any man in his senses be less than fond of such an innocent, winsome creature as you, Violet?"

"You see he is so rich, I feel as if he can love me for myself," said Violet, with a flush. "*He* cannot be fortune-hunting. I respect Lord Leigh. I like him; and when I get used to the idea, I think, Lady Burton, I am capable of loving."

"My darling, you were born for love—warmly."

"But if I found he had deceived me—not loved me for myself—oh, how unutterably I should hate him, or any one."

Lady Burton trembled at the girl's tone and her pallor.

"It is not likely in his case. But, Violet, do delay this marriage."

"No, no; it is too late. I cannot endure this being hunted. No; I must take my risk now, before I am hunted to death."

(To be continued.)

HALF A MILLION DOLLARS DAMAGE BY FIRE.

Six hundred persons have been thrown out of employment, and damage estimated at half a million dollars has been done by a fire at Adams (Massachusetts).

ARRESTED FOR PRESENTING A PETITION.

Yesterday as the German Emperor was out walking in Berlin a young man named Sasse presented a petition to His Majesty. He was immediately arrested, but later in the day was set at liberty. The petition related to a complicated lawsuit.

TERRIBLE ASSAULT BY A GIPSY.

At Bootle yesterday John Woods, having the appearance of a gipsy, was sent to gaol for two months for assaulting Chief Constable D'Espiney, of Bootle. Mr D'Espiney, while walking through the town, saw the prisoner assault a girl, and went to her rescue. The prisoner threw him down, bit him, and kicked him. Dr. Wills, a Bootle magistrate, passed in his carriage at the time, and assisted the Chief Constable to lock the prisoner up.

THE DEATH RATE.

The Registrar-General reports that the annual rate of mortality during the past week in the twenty-eight great towns of England and Wales averaged 24·1 per 1,000 of their aggregate population. The rate in Birkenhead was 25, Birmingham 25, Blackburn 29, Bolton 20, Bradford 20, Brighton 23, Bristol 28, Cardiff 24, Derby 14, Halifax 24, Huddersfield 30, Hull 18, Leeds 28, Leicester 21, Liverpool 22, London 23, Manchester 27, Newcastle-on-Tyne 23, Norwich 26, Nottingham 22, Oldham 23, Plymouth 17, Portsmouth 13, Preston 21, Salford 28, Sheffield 26, Sunderland 20, and Wolverhampton 19. The rate in Edinburgh was 24, Glasgow 28, and Dublin 29.

BURIED UNDER A BURNING HAYSTACK.

A terrible accident occurred at a stack fire at Dore, near Sheffield, on Monday night. A man named Joseph Makin was exceedingly active in his efforts to assist the fire brigade, when suddenly the stack tumbled, completely burying him under the blazing hay. In spite of the stupendous efforts of the bystanders a considerable time elapsed before he could be extricated, when it was found that his injuries were terrible. He was removed to the Sheffield Infirmary, where he yesterday morning succumbed to his injuries after a night of agonising torture.

STRANGE DISCOVERY OF A CAVE.

A despatch has been received from Charleston, West Virginia, relating an extraordinary discovery made during excavations by miners in the vicinity. For the last two months a number of men at Anisted, in the Elk River mining region, have been engaged driving through a 10ft. vein of coal. On Saturday last when they had bored 1,000ft. into the mountain, they reached an enormous cave, being a room 20ft. square. There were no visible signs that it had ever been communicated with from the outside, yet on the floor of the room the men found a human skeleton, of which the bones began crumbling to dust on exposure to the air or on the slightest touch. On the walls there were rude outlines, supposed to be the handwriting of the being whose skeleton was thus found entombed. The discovery has awakened great interest in geological and antiquarian circles.

A DEAF JURYMAN FINED.—At the Jersey Criminal Assizes on Monday on the jury retiring to consider their verdict in one case, it was found that a juryman, being deaf, had heard neither evidence nor pleadings.—The Court fined him £5 for not mentioning his infirmity, declared the previous proceedings void, and recommenced the case.

EXTRACT FROM THE "CYCLIST," FEBRUARY 25TH, 1891.—"M. D. Rucker was at Diston yesterday with a suspension-tyred "Humber" Safety, with which he had been indulging in certain of his well-known manœuvring tricks during the week. The suspension tyre excited a vast amount of admiration, and was subjected to innumerable experiments by quite a dozen men, amongst whom were G. L. Hillier, Swindley, Lewis, Sawood, C. E. Liles, Bath Road Smith, and others. The verdicts, particularly as to the "life" of the tyre, were distinctly favourable, and though we doubt if a tyre from the hand-pumped pneumatic, the difference was hardly noticeable. The riding is undoubtedly fast, reduces vibration in almost as great a degree as the air tyre, and will, if the suspension rim is warranted, quickly jump into general favour." Mr. Young, who leads the cycle trade in the North of England, exhibited the suspension tyre as the tyre for Lady Burton, sold at Stockton a few weeks ago, the first time out of London—and is expecting a delivery of "Humber" Safeties fitted with this tyre in a few days. Cyclists are invited to inspect them at the depots—Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Darlington.

KAY'S COMPOUND, a demulcent anodyne and expectorant for Coughs, 9½d, 1s3d. All Chemists.—ADVT.

Special! For 6/6 Hats! 1/- Ties! Gloves! Try Willis!
Special! For 6/6 Hats! 1/- Ties! Gloves! Try Willis!
Special! For 5/6 Hats! 1/- Ties! Shirts! Try Willis!
Special! For 5/6 Hats! 1/- Ties! Shirts! Try Willis!
Special! For 2/6 Hats! 1/- Ties! Fronts! Try Willis!
Special! For 2/6 Hats! 1/- Ties! Fronts! Try Willis!
5/6 Cardigan Jackets! 3/6 Cardigan Jackets!
Willis, "The Great White Hat," 25, Newport-rd.—ADVT.

WHOSE WAS THE HAND?

By Miss BRADDON, Author of "Lady Audley's Secret," "Like and Unlike," "The Day Will Come," &c.

CHAPTER XXIX. (CONTINUED).

AMBROSE ARDEN'S CONFESSION (CONTINUED).

While the wicked web was slowly spreading, the man who was the incarnation of my own sinful longing appeared upon the scene. He had written me two or three beggar letters after that chance meeting in Gower-street, and I had sent him small sums of money, such amounts as a man of my supposed means might send to such an applicant. These concessions had made him bolder, and he came to my house in the dusk of a summer evening, having walked all the way from Staines. I let him talk of your husband, and I answered all his questions about the man he hated. I told him of Robert Hatrell's happy and peaceful life, his prosperity, his fast fancy for sinking your thousand pounds in the purchase of a few acres of land to increase his pleasure grounds."

"In your native South I take it you would be able to buy an olive wood and a vineyard with that money?" I said.

He nodded yes, and went on eating and drinking in a meditative silence.

"Now were any man as savage a foe to Robert Hatrell as you pretend to be," I said, after a long pause, "he would have a good chance of taking his revenge and making his fortune some time next week."

He looked at me wonderingly, and I explained that Hatrell would pay for the land in Bank of England notes. He would go up to London on an appointed day, cash his cheque at his Bank, and then carry the money to the solicitor's office. I told him casually the name and address of the Bank, and the name and address of the solicitor; and I saw him sitting there before me, with his e